

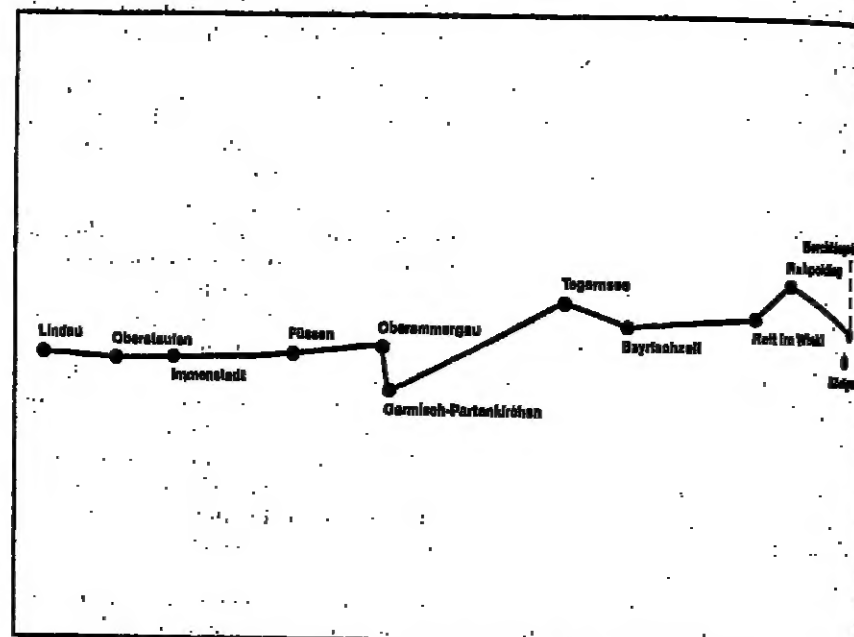
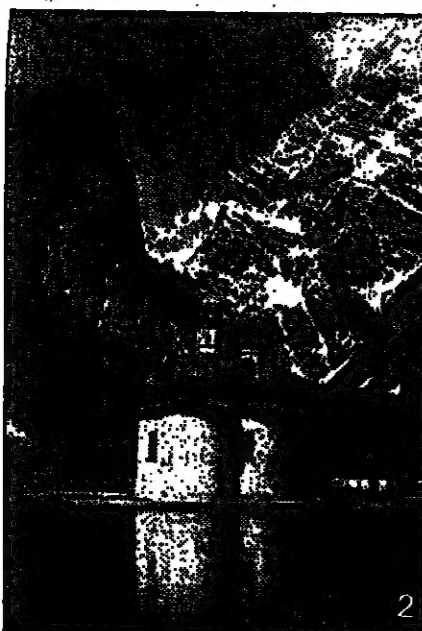
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The many sides to a well-run alliance

relations between the West and the Soviet Union, America cannot go it alone except at the price of serious tensions in the Western alliance.

The US attempt to enforce its rejection of Western Europe's Siberian gas pipeline contract with the Soviet Union opens up increasingly deep cracks in the alliance.

The paradoxical present state of affairs is that sanctions that were intended to hit Moscow have rebounded on America's partners in Europe as though they were suddenly totally dependent on the Soviet Union.

There are two reasons why. One is that Washington has overlooked the fact that alliances of free countries, tireless though it may be in arriving at consistent policies, function on the consensus principle.

It is not enough for one ship to press ahead as long as the others are neither able nor willing to keep up the speed. That merely breaks up the convoy.

In other words, an alliance can only survive via consensus, and consensus must constantly be re-established.

In the state the Western alliance has been in for some time it too could well be done with a Philip Habib to fire-ignite and resolve or surmount common interests.

Failure is not just the fault of the United States. The Europeans have not done much lately either.

The other reason is on a different plane. The United States long failed to understand the fundamental nature of the gas pipeline contract.

It is the political stalemate of the medium-range missile modernisation resolution. Whether it made economic sense or would give the Soviet Union the better of the bargain was immaterial at the time.

At a time when, by virtue of previous arms policy and the obligation it placed on the West to react militarily, tension in East-West ties could be seen the aim was to signify to the Soviet Union a token of willingness to operate and to prompt Moscow to be willing in the military sector too.

Besides, Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt was already under the impression that he would not be able to muster sufficient domestic support for Nato's missile modernisation resolution unless he could credibly demonstrate that the Soviet Union was still willing.

It may at the time already have been seen by Americans as a sign of incomprehensible weakness by America's principal ally in Europe. Maybe it was.

It must be admitted that an attempt was at least made in the Federal Republic of Germany to meet the Russian half-way in one sector in order to

retain freedom to decide in another sector, that of security policy.

This argument may be difficult to follow now, but that is merely because, as so often, the Soviet Union has failed to live up to the expectations placed on it.

On arms Moscow has yet to indicate readiness to come to realistic terms. Instead, it calls on the Europeans to decouple from the United States in arms policy in much the same way as they are opposed to the US embargo on the Siberian gas pipeline contract.

It expects Europe either to abandon the Nato missile modernisation resolution or at least to draw a distinction between itself and the US delegation at the disarmament talks.

If Washington had only been more clearly aware of the overall political context in which the gas pipeline contract had to be seen, the Americans would probably have been less surprised by the staunch resistance to calling off the deal offered by European governments.

Other failings could have been found to get across to the Soviet Union how dissatisfied the West was with developments in Poland.

Conversely, European governments were not always entirely clear what the Americans had in mind. At times Secretary of State Haig conveyed the impression that agreement might be reached between Europe and the United States on the gas pipeline. It then transpired that Mr Haig enjoyed much too little influence in the White House to be able to undertake firm commitments on Washington's behalf. This was a state of affairs that had been typical of earlier US administrations.

The last straw that prompted the Reagan administration to adopt a tougher approach was President Mitterrand's refusal at the Versailles summit to abide by a common code of behaviour even in granting credits to the Soviet Union.

France, he said, would not be bound by any such joint resolutions. Chancellor Schmidt then learnt from President Reagan at talks in Bonn that US resistance had heightened in intensity.

At present it looks as though Washington has come to regard sanctions as the yardstick of how far the United States can exercise leadership in the



Mr Pym comes to Germany

British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym (left) in Bonn for an exchange of views with German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Mr Pym, who succeeded Lord Carrington, discussed European and world issues with Herr Genscher. (Photo: dpa)

Western alliance and whether the Europeans are still prepared to accept US leadership.

In Europe this issue is already under discussion as a matter of national sovereignty, and the increasing gravity of the situation is by no means lacking in danger.

In Nato with its present structure there is no answer to this question in theory, but once it has arisen the problem seems to defy solution.

It can only be surmounted time and again by the desire to reach agreement or by a division of responsibility on which at least agreement has been reached and of the kind that may be reached between larger and smaller powers.

But that now calls for hard work and must not be limited to legal and formal points of view.

Admittedly, we are not yet entirely clear how far US foreign policy under President Reagan is governed by domestic policy considerations.

Partly, after all, this has been the case in Europe with regard to the Siberian gas pipeline contract.

In Bonn too, given the government's current position, there are few signs of creative power other than the Chancellor's determination "not just to call it a day".

(Der Tagespiegel, 29 August 1982)

Bonn man on a fact-finding trip to China

Egon Bahr, a former East-West negotiator and now Social Democratic spokesman on disarmament, has left on a visit to China.

It is a voyage of discovery that cannot be said to have anything to do with his parliamentary role as chairman of the Bundestag sub-committee on disarmament and arms control.

Yet the results of his talks in Peking are sure to find their way into his parliamentary committee work in Bonn.

China currently occupies an interesting position between Washington and Moscow. For a while the Chinese Communists seemed to be engaged in a heavy tilt with the American capitalists, but those days now appear over.

It looks as though ties with Moscow, which were long at a low ebb, are to be improved.

It is hard to judge from Europe what the motives behind this behaviour are. How much of it is far Eastern negotiating tactics? How much is aimed at changing circumstances?

These are questions that can only be asked in Peking, and there only, if at all, will answers be found.

So Herr Bahr's voyage of discovery is undoubtedly a major undertaking from the viewpoint of Bonn politics, especially as it is clear how highly America rates the change in climate in its relations with China.

This can be easily implied from the US decision to loosen ties with Taiwan.

These are all events that could have a direct or indirect bearing on bids to achieve arms control and disarmament.

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

GERMANY

Konrad Adenauer, the Wall and the Kennedy Connection

BUSINESS

Home electronics gets the digital nod

EXTREMISTS

Trying to stop the march of a racial sub-culture

THE ENVIRONMENT

The role of chemicals

In growing food

THE CINEMA

Lena Riefenstahl's part in art

politics and a half

share of the truth

MEDICINE

Inside the body: new examination

method is '100 times better

than X-rays'

WORLD AFFAIRS

Looking for the next move to deal with a crisis of confidence

The dispute over the Siberian gas pipeline contract between Western Europe and the Soviet Union does not look like trickling away, as Helmut Schmidt hoped after this last visit to America.

Instead, it now looks like coming to a head.

It has been heightened by France's decision to order the French subsidiary of Dresser Industries to abide by the terms of its contract with the Russians and ignore President Reagan's embargo.

For months the dispute has cast a shadow far beyond the mere gas contract, and the latest move threatens to knock the bottom out of transatlantic cooperation as a whole, not just on trade with the East.

What President Reagan originally planned as a crusade against the Soviet Union has emerged as a triumph for Moscow, with the Russians getting not only the pipeline from Siberia to Western Europe.

In addition, they can now look on with pleasure as the Western alliance is plunged into a serious crisis of confidence.

The decision by President Mitterrand and his Industry Minister, Jean-Pierre Chevènement, to prohibit submission to the embargo in their sphere of influence



will make the divide between Europe and the United States even deeper.

But it is still no more than a necessary, inevitable continuation of previous European policy in the gas pipeline dispute.

For weeks European Community politicians have reaffirmed their view that the extension of the US embargo to subsidiaries of American companies abroad cannot be reconciled with the principles of international law.

They have expressed this conviction in two diplomatic notes to Washington and in countless talks with US politicians and high-ranking government officials.

Once this effort had proved to no avail Europe was left with little option but to follow energetic words with suitable deeds.

The alternative, to submit to American pressure for the sake of solidarity with the leading Atlantic power, to breach contracts and accept a lengthy delay in construction of the pipeline, would have dealt a serious blow to Europe's credibility as a trading partner, and not only with the East Bloc.

France's Socialist government is no longer alone in being convinced that the dispute with the United States must now be fought out in the open.

Bonn too has encouraged German companies to give priority over President Reagan's political goals to their own interests.

The German government is not sounding as strident a note on this issue as the French, and that is definitely due only in part to Bonn's trade policy powers being less sweeping than those of the French government.

Unlike neighbouring France, which with decided self-assurance reacts allegorically to any attack on its sovereignty, Bonn remains determined despite political differences not to overstrain sensitive relations with the United States more than is absolutely necessary.

But restraint in the terms in which objections are couched cannot hide the fact that on the issues at stake both the French and other European countries have taken a tougher stand on President Reagan's embargo policy.

They can but look forward to the US government's response with a mixture of hope, fear and doubt, hopes being based on efforts by Secretary of State George Shultz.

Mr Shultz evidently believes there will be a diplomatic solution to the con-

fused situation that both sides Europeans to go ahead with their with the Russians while not President Reagan's face.

It is doubtful whether Mr Schmidt himself can be convinced of the stages of a strategy of appeasement. Experience has shown he will stick to guns, given that he remains convinced his policy is right.

If he does, the conflict will lose its momentum and proliferation of major and minor sanctions, import bans and other weapons from the trade war arsenal.

The legal disputes this will entail hold forth career prospects for legal experts, but they are not to solve political problems. Political problems will increase.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 27 August)

Visit to China

Continued from page 1

Climate changes can no longer be limited to regions when the powers are involved.

So it makes sound sense for the Bahr to stop over in Moscow on way back from Peking.

Since his travels have always had an aura of secret diplomacy, a stopover in the Soviet capital will cause much speculation.

But that is of minor importance. The benefit to be derived from the political information gained is the important point.

(Nordwest Zeitung, 25 August)

A new production of an old European dream

The European Community is one of the West's few major political achievements of the century.

Who in the West would not have reason to fear that free Europe, prosperous and peaceful after dreadful wars, was being filtered away?

But it is also true to say that the EEC is no longer a focal point of hopes.

After the Second World War Europe and the future were two sides of the same coin. They now hardly seem to have anything more to do with each other.

Europe now stands for butter mountains, wine lakes and red tape, a reversion to nation-state egoism and general horse-trading for presumed advantages.

All these annoying details have come to the fore as though they were the sum total of European truth, while to the outside world Europe is seen by some as a helpless ship floundering in heavy seas between East and West.

So it is hardly surprising that in recent months the debate among professional Europeans and in EEC capitals has come to centre on how to remedy this, preferably once and for all.

The debate is not new, but headway this time seems to have been made by those who advocate a radical structural reorganisation of the European Community.

They say nothing but a qualitative jump from the Europe of sheepkeepers to a Europe much more deeply integrated can still rescue the EEC and end the progressive decline of the Community.

We have long had to wave goodbye to the view held by Europe's founding fathers that a community interlocked economically would automatically develop toward overall political integration.

Others, especially the custodians of

the business of government, the powers that be in individual EEC member-states, disagree. They are intent on maintaining what has already been achieved.

Yet when it comes down to brass tacks the advocates of small steps and a more gradual progress toward European integration detail by detail admit that Europe cannot be brought about by decree.

This, basically, is what career Europeans have in mind, the most determined of whom are the members of the European Assembly, directly elected for the first time in 1979 by over 100 million citizens of EEC countries.

Elections to the Euro-Parliament are next due in 1984, and MEPs in Strasbourg are anxious to ensure an election turnout that will enable hopes of a politically united Europe emerging under the aegis of a common parliament to survive.

What they need is a rousing campaign issue, and they feel they have found one in the newly-launched campaign for revision of the Treaty of Rome.

A European Constitution is to be drawn up to rearrange responsibilities in the European Community. Power, including the legislative variety, is to be withdrawn from national bodies and assigned to common European authorities.

It is the old dream of European Union in a new guise, and Euro-MPs in

Strasbourg have already passed guidelines as the first step in its direction.

What they envisage is, basically, a division of labour between the European Union and member-states, with the Union being assigned tasks that can be carried out more effectively in common than by individual member-countries.

Powers are to be vested in the European Union, with a reallocation of tax revenue to be negotiated accordingly, while the European Assembly as the watchdog of European Union is to be given legislative powers wrested mainly from the previously well-nigh all-powerful Council of Ministers.

Further progress is envisaged as follows. By next spring the somewhat sparse guidelines are to be fleshed out in Strasbourg as stage two.

Late in 1983, at stage three, the treaty terms are to be submitted to the European Assembly for approval and referred directly to national parliaments for ratification.

This move is intended as an artful bid to circumvent EEC member-governments, who are seen as being incapable of reform.

Will this Strasbourg initiative amount to more than a European election issue? In content it weighs more heavily; its aims are truly revolutionary for this day and age.

Euro-MPs are determined to ensure from Strasbourg that the next direct elections to the European Assembly are

a plebiscite for a European Constitution.

The wheels have been set in motion, and should the breakthrough prove a complete success, with one of the national parliament or another referendum, the European Union will be a reality.

The days of European romanticism, say, are over, and if need be the means must be forced to accept what is in the end a reality.

So in Strasbourg all the eggs have been put into one basket and it looks as though the balance of trade, it also includes the decline of long-term interest rates in this country. I see no reason for the European Assembly, the world's first and so far only directly-elected pramational parliament, will be elected or voted out, and with it a definite European idea.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 18 August 1982)

The German Tribune

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HOME AFFAIRS

Basic elements of the Budget will remain, Schmidt says

Schmidt: "Like in previous years, we will again keep a close watch on economic developments in the world at home. Towards the end of the debate in November we shall report the tax revenue estimates on the basis of economic forecasts based on the best indicators. The objective is, of less legal experts, but they are not to solve political problems. Political problems will increase."

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 27 August)

The Chancellor denied that there are fundamental differences of views between Finance Minister Manfred Lambsdorff (SPD) and Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff (FDP). He said: "I can't see what major and unpredictable events could have happened in the course of this summer to substantially change the estimates Lambsdorff presented to the cabinet in early September."

Schmidt conceded that economic developments in America have been unsatisfactory since then. This, he said, applied particularly to America's fiscal policy which, "is marked by a protracted aggressiveness on the part of the US."

But in the past few days, the Chancellor said, there were some positive signs coming from America, i.e. the fundamental desire to balance some of the exceptional US deficits through tax cuts.

At any event, he said, there will be no changes in the basic concept of the budget for 1983.

The basic elements will remain: first, cuts in consumption spending; second, a reduction of tax benefits and closure of loopholes; third, additional job creation measures to be financed from the budget; and, fourth, respite for the federal net borrowing from the quiet as markets have been tolerant to the eco-

nomies. "I can see a number of factors in the overall economic development in this country which must be seen in a more optimistic light today than in July. This includes the very positive development of the balance of payments — and not the balance of trade. It also includes the decline of long-term interest rates in this country. I see no reason for the European Assembly, the world's first and so far only directly-elected pramational parliament, will be elected or voted out, and with it a definite European idea."

The economic slump and unemployment will mean new tax revenue shortfalls and additional money going to the Federal Labour Office. Is the budget hole to the tune of billions to be plugged with additional borrowing? Or are direct or indirect tax hikes or higher levies being considered?"

Schmidt: "I refuse to speak of holes in the tune of billions. I also refuse to accept that what the opposition has said is a cohesive concept. Herr Lambsdorff, for instance, has demanded annual savings of DM30bn or, conversely, additional revenues of the same magnitude. He neither said where the money is to come from nor did he say where it's to go. The magnitude of such a demand is totally nonsensical. Herr Zim-mermann wants more money for the Bundeswehr, Herr Lenzner more for research and development, the CDU

There will be no major changes in the Bonn Budget for 1983, says the Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt. The basic elements, reduced consumer spending, cut-back on tax benefits and loopholes, more job creation steps and restricted federal borrowing, would remain. He told the *Rheinische Post* that Opposition criticism did not amount to a cohesive concept. "The Opposition wants to fish in murky waters, and all the talk about across-the-board cuts is a smokescreen to hide the fact that it has no concept."

secretary-general, Herr Geissler, demands more money for housing construction and a privileged position for the formation of private capital.

"And then all the *Länder* in the Bundesrat — at least for the time being — oppose the three-month postponement of salary increases for the civil service... although civil-service jobs are least at risk; in fact, these people don't have to worry about their jobs at all."

"Herr Dregger wants a ten per cent cut in subsidies; Herr Stoltenberg, on the other hand, opposes across the board subsidy cuts. He would like to exclude shipbuilding. Herr von Weizsäcker wants to exclude air traffic to and from Berlin from subsidy cuts; Herr Späth says that all government benefits must be cut by five per cent, and this evidently includes child allowances, rent subsidies and unemployment benefits. Only a week later, Herr Kohl spoke of a need for eight per cent cuts."

"I ask myself, what do they mean by 'subsidies'? Or what is state benefits supposed to mean? It's complete chaos. The opposition wants to fish in murky waters and all the talk of across the board cuts in subsidies is a smokescreen to hide its own lack of a concept. I re-

ject that the conservatives now speak with so many tongues."

R.P.: "What about more government borrowing and raising taxes or levies? And what do you say to the economising ideas of the FDP? Will these items lead to the next coalition conflict?"

Schmidt: "Officially, I know of no FDP economising ideas other than those on which our joint resolutions on the draft budget for fiscal 1983 were based in early July. There have been some statements that I don't want to evaluate at the moment. I can therefore see no coalition conflict in the offing."

"Certainly, there are narrow limits for further federal net borrowing; and the same applies to the burdens that can be imposed on the broad masses. I would not like to have to present a recipe à la Ronald Reagan who first drastically reduced taxes and now had to struggle to raise them again."

"I'm generally against tax increases. But as everybody knows, I am open to a surtax for the higher income brackets. On the other hand, some of the spokesmen — especially those of the CDU/CSU — must also realise that you cannot cut back on social security benefits every six months."

"In other words, we find ourselves in a very tight corner. Anybody who demands that others should forfeit something to which they are now entitled must be prepared to do the same."

"This is generally applicable. Somebody who rejects tax splitting for couples earning more than DM100,000 a year on the grounds that this would endanger 'the family or somebody who suggests to the AEG staff that they forfeit part of their wages without providing a good example on the supervisory and management boards cannot unilaterally put all the burdens on the shoulders of the man-in-the-street."

It is most unlikely that the Chancellor and his Economic Affairs Minister will want to argue over their tactical plans. Since the Chancellor's last speech on the budget, in the light of new economic indicators is primarily due to tactical considerations.

In objective terms, there is much that speaks for Lambsdorff's position. Anybody who wants to make provisions against additional budgetary risks hardly needs to wait for the late autumn forecast of the Council of Economic Advisers.

It has been obvious for some time that the spending earmarked in the budget for unemployment falls short of requirements.

If the necessary cover for the added spending is to come from economising measures in state benefits, the time to discuss this is now.

November will be too late even in terms of legal technicalities because it will be impossible then to discuss cuts in state benefits that are to become effective on 1 January 1983.

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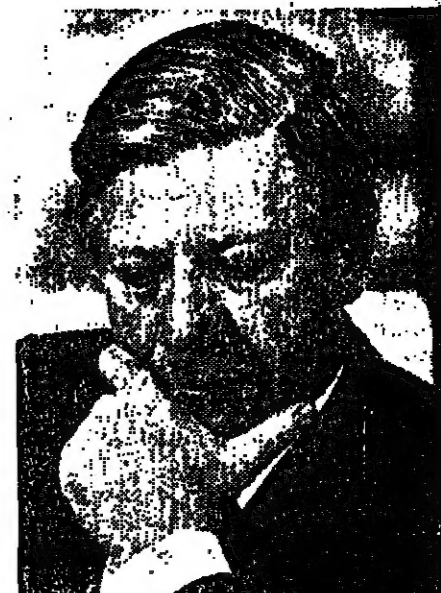
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"I'm generally against tax increases" ... Helmut Schmidt. (Photo: Sven Simon)

R.P.: "For trade unionists, even the cabinet's economising decisions in early July go too far and they refuse to accept further cutbacks. In fact, they demand a review of the plans that have been drafted so far, along with further job creating measures by the state. How do you as the chancellor want to suit the unions without rubbing your coalition partner the wrong way, and vice versa? What is to be done to improve relations between the state and the unions?"

Schmidt: "Relations between the unions and the state are by no means bad. Never before has a German state given so much scope to the unions. It's true that many unionists consider the economising measures of the cabinet as going too far. They're not the only ones. Doctors also consider the new regulations for medical fees as going too far. Farmers are also dissatisfied."

"I know no organisation, including the German Civil Service Federation, that doesn't complain. There is a general race in progress to ensure that one's own complaint is not too late in reaching the public."

"Here, the officials of the various organisations are much more emphatic and much more annoying with their exaggerations than their rank and file."

"The great majority of German citizens know that a number of companies are faced with a difficult situation at the moment and that they therefore cannot pay more taxes. They also know tax increases would be nonsense. The majority of our citizens know that when there is no economic growth worth mentioning, their own incomes can also grow only minimally. Most Germans say to themselves: If I continue to do as well as I've been doing up to now I'll be satisfied. Of course, this does not apply to the jobless. In fact, unemployment is my real big worry."

The Chancellor said that the economic, financial and social system of the Federal Republic of Germany was nevertheless one of the best in the world. "But of course there is room for improvement."

The oil price explosion and the trend towards an inflationary financing of state budgets have led to a deep recession in the world economy, and this has hit us as well," the Chancellor said.

"It is therefore necessary to make it clear that not only the private incomes of people holding jobs can no longer rise as they did before but that this also applies to the net incomes of pensioners. This is no crisis of the market economy system; but today's situation is salutary inasmuch as it forces us to restrict ourselves to what is feasible for the future."

Hans-Henning Zencke (Rheinische Post, 25 August 1982)

It is rather lucky for Count Lambsdorff and the Free Democrats that these considerations suit their tactical plans.

If Hans Dietrich Genscher intends to give the decisive signal for his party's switch (to the conservatives, and thus bring down the governing coalition) in the early autumn, he must have a vested interest in making use of the next instalment of the controversy within the coalition over economic matters as early as possible so that he can use the deteriorating climate between SPD and FDP as a vehicle.

The Chancellor, on the other hand, must have an interest in postponing the fiscal issue. Why should he antagonise the unionist-middle class bastion within his SPD through 'economising' plans drafted in early September? Chances are, after all, that by late October these plans will no longer be implemented.

Since the disunity in the warring coalition is beginning to gain the upper hand over the common ground between the two parties, there is little sense in papering over the 'obvious' controversy with apparent agreement within the cabinet.

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GERMANY

Konrad Adenauer, the Wall, and the Kennedy Connection

East Germany's Communist Party leader Erich Honecker says the construction of the Berlin Wall on 13 August 1961 was a "deed of peace." West Germany's CDU Chairman Helmut Kohl calls it a "testimony to the political and moral defeat of communism."

When Honecker's predecessor, Walter Ulbricht, backed by the then Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, began the

construction of the Wall, Bonn Chancellor Konrad Adenauer reacted with great circumspection.

We owe it to him that the crisis in the heart of Europe two decades ago led neither to a conflict in Berlin nor to an uprising in the GDR. We also owe it to him that there was no split between the Federal Republic of Germany and its Western allies.

Adenauer proved himself a statesman

who handled what could have become a world-wide crisis with acumen and a sense of responsibility.

This is roughly how the Cologne historian Hans-Peter Schwarz analysed the Berlin crisis and the construction of the Wall in a lecture organised by *Stiftung Bundeskanzler Adenauer Haus*.

Recalling what happened before the Berlin crisis, Schwarz said that though there had been scattered warnings that something was brewing, the world had no idea what really was going to happen.

Former FDP party leader Erich Mende said that the head of the West German intelligence service had passed on information that a disastrous move was in the making in the East; and Eugen Gerstenmaier, then speaker of the Bundestag, said he had received a warning letter from publisher Axel Springer.

The letter (which has since been published and was dated 10 July 1961) predicted that Berlin would be "totally divided by a national frontier."

But neither in Bonn nor in the other Western capitals did anybody anticipate that Berlin would be cut in two by a wall.

The Americans did expect Soviet measures aimed at stabilising the Ulbricht regime and considered the possibility that East Berlin might be sealed off.

Most of Schwarz's lecture and the subsequent discussion was devoted to analyses of the reactions of Adenauer and US President John F. Kennedy and what they could have done.

The discussion was attended by high-ranking politicians and party representatives, including Johann Baptist Gradl, Franz Bartsch and former Bonn ambassador to Washington Wilhelm Grewe.

Some people in the West still believe that the construction of the Wall should have been stopped by tanks.

But the fact is that the Kennedy Administration had expressly restricted its central European involvement.

The President was determined not to go beyond the position he outlined in a

speech on 25 July 1961 in which he undertook to defend West Berlin as a "frontier of peace and freedom."

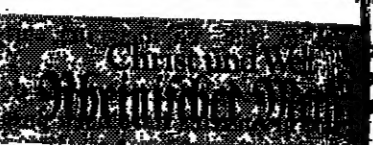
Britain's Prime Minister Harold Wilson, and French President de Gaulle were even less prepared than the Americans to put undue strain on their relations with the Soviet Union.

Had the worst come to the fore, Paris would have taken some steps, most of de Gaulle's troops at the time were still occupied in the Algerian war.

While Franz Josef Strauss, Bonn's Minister at the time, favoured a demonstrative advance of German armour on the autobahn from Bonn to Berlin, Adenauer opposed a move that would run counter to American President's concept.

It was in no way insensitivity to the destiny of Berlin that made Adenauer decide not to make a demonstrative move to the wall as it was being built.

He decided not to go to Berlin, though he realised that his political opponent Willy Brandt (SPD), then



of Berlin, would benefit, in terms of votes, at the coming general election.

Schwarz stressed Adenauer's contribution to peace while reserving judgment on Kennedy's response.

The critical attitude towards American President in West Germany was shown by the attack launched against Kennedy, the American ally of democracy, by the then Finance Minister Heinz Starke (FDP).

The tone of Starke's attack was that Kurt Birrenbach (CDU) was prompted to put things into perspective by pointing to Kennedy's risks and statecraft on a global plane.

Starke had frequently expressed reservations about Kennedy's Bay of Pigs fiasco (when Cubans in America attempted to invade their home country).

His unsatisfactory meeting with Khrushchev in Vienna and now his acceptance of the Berlin Wall.

Birrenbach pointed out that it should not be forgotten that it was the Kennedy who, in the autumn of 1961, had won the upper hand in the

Continued on page 5

East Berlin keeps feelers out for moonlighters in the West

Were not the survivors of Hitler's state of informers rightly proud of the fact that, unlike the GDR, the Federal Republic of Germany shed that legacy? Is the necessary defence against infiltration and sabotage to result in an informant mentality?

"Firms must not be allowed to become sites of anti-constitutional activities," says Bavaria's Ministry of the Interior.

Indeed! But must we really recruit agents among staff members? Is it not sophism for the Bonn Interior Ministry to say: "Information about workers' councils, trade unions and individual council members who do not promote anti-constitutional drives is of no interest whatsoever for the Office for the Protection of the Constitution."

What a merry atmosphere at work when there is constant rumour about one person or the other in one department or the other earning a handsome bit of extra cash by acting as a liaison post!

Or when you don't know who your fellow worker who always joins in the chat is an informer.

Employers and employees should be their own interests oppose such temptations.

The trade unions rightly point to the fact that their democratic substance has always been enough to ward off those who tried to undermine this substance and its economic and social structure.

Norbert Middel (Handelsblatt, 18 August 1982)

LABOUR

Apprenticeships becoming harder to find

there were young people keen to serve one.

Those were the days! This year the relationship between supply and demand is worse than it has ever been.

Why, given statistics that indicated the pressure ought by now to have eased, are there still so many young people on the lookout for an apprenticeship?

The answer is last year's school-leavers who failed to find one and did a year's basic training or otherwise tided over the time until they could try again.

An extra year's compulsory schooling in some Länder has compounded the problem, while more and more youngsters are consulting the labour exchange in their quest for an apprenticeship.

The claim that young people insist on a particular trade has long been disproved. The labour exchanges say they behave in a manner appropriate to the market, which presumably means they take what they can get.

The Advisory Council on Scientific Affairs has noted a similar tendency among university freshmen to react very sensitively to information on labour market prospects.

Young people end up taking the jobs offered, labour exchange officials say. Initially they are keen to learn the trade they fancy, but the closer the deadline comes, the readier they are to make concessions.

"They then respond flexibly and adapt to what is available," says a West Berlin official.

At the end of June the number of apprenticeships on offer in the city was reported to be 4.3 per cent up on 1981 to 12,052. Officials attribute this improvement to special efforts on the city council's part.

But the increase looks less impressive when compared with the larger number of applicants for the apprenticeships available. At the end of June their number was up 22.8 per cent on a year ago.

So there are 12,672 youngsters to share 12,052 apprenticeships. Besides, about 4,500 young people are registered as unemployed.

The West Berlin region of IG Metall, the iron, steel and engineering workers' union, is worried the number of unemployed youngsters in the city could soar to 8,000.

A situation combining, as Herr Engelholm puts it, an unprecedented recession and a boom in the number of school-leavers calls for swift and unorthodox action.

Yet officialdom seems to be helpless

powers out of the city, eventually providing the GDR with a genuine capital.

Whatever Kennedy's options in a bid to prevent the construction of the Wall might have been, he never considered relinquishing West Berlin.

Khrushchev's blueprint failed — not least due to Konrad Adenauer's wise and restrained response to the crisis in 1961.

Seen in this light, Khrushchev's foray to Cuba in 1962 was a "forward flight".

Gerd Rensing (Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 20 August 1982)

Levy suggested to create jobs

Denn Education Minister Björn Engholm has advised chambers of commerce and industry to raise levies to provide more apprenticeships.

In this way they could raise DM250m a year by efforts of their own.

He also called for local bodies to be set up to help young people looking for an apprenticeship to make direct contact with potential employers.

He made his recommendations after meeting with Social Democratic Education Ministers on current difficulties in providing training facilities for school-leavers.

A levy, he said, would present no less a problem. A penny per job per working hour would cost a company

with a payroll of 10 DM170 a year.

Gert Weisskirchen, a Social Democratic spokesman on educational affairs at the Bonn Bundestag, had previously suggested a levy of two pennings per

year per man.

He said, would raise DM800m a year all over the country, which would be enough to provide apprenticeships for all young people who were unable to find a place as a trainee this autumn.

At the end of July, the Ministry said, 15,000 young people were still on the lookout for an apprenticeship, as against 50,000 apprenticeships still on offer at labour exchanges.

dpa (Nordwest Zeitung, 26 August 1982)

Continued from page 4

confrontation with the Soviet navy off Cuba.

It would have been desirable for the construction in the Adenauer Haus to have stated more clearly that Khrushchev's defeat off Cuba also marked the end of his aggressive Berlin policy.

That began with Moscow's threatening note of 27 November 1958.

The note suggested the acceptance by the Western powers of a "demilitarised" city of West Berlin — a move that was intended to drive the Western

The institute has suggested a wage freeze for apprentices, saying that if this could be agreed in future rounds of wage talks an improvement might be brought about.

Such arguments must be seen against the background of stiff opposition by the employers over the past decade to proposals for a vocational training levy.

They have consistently argued that a levy would be a serious inroad into their traditional responsibility for training their own staff.

On grounds of principle they preferred to meet the cost of training apprentices themselves. They objected to a union-backed levy to help provide more apprenticeships.

Industry might not object to government subsidies or incentives of other kinds, but vocational training must by and large remain the joint responsibility of employers and trades colleges.

Employers were not even prepared to consider greater emphasis on the trades college aspect of vocational training.

They knew the 60s baby boom would be leaving school and clamouring for apprenticeships and insisted on retaining responsibility for providing them.

So if you want to know what happened to these extra apprenticeships, ask the employers. All the government can try to do is mend a few fences and ease a situation for which it is not to blame.

Dorothea Hilgenberg (Der Tagespiegel, 22 August 1982)

Shorter shifts, same pay, cutbacks saved

can have up to a week off between these four working weeks. They will not have to work more than six days in succession.

Werner Schreiber, IG Metall's Gelsenkirchen branch secretary, feels the terms agreed with Nacanco are exemplary in some respects.

The Nacanco agreement is the first of its kind in the engineering industry with a company that is a member of the employers' association.

The only other company with a similar scheme is L&S, a Wiesbaden manufacturer of waffle toasters, who work a 35-hour week. But L&S is not a member of the employers' association.

This is an important consideration as the union sees it. IG Metall are keen to negotiate a shorter working week on full pay in the next round of wage talks.

In the past the employers have closed ranks in their opposition to the idea, but now a precedent has been set.

"As a rule," Herr Schreiber says, "works agreements cannot provide for shorter working hours. That is a matter to be settled in regional wage agreements."

"But in this case we have arrived at a solution that does not run counter to the regional agreement."

The Nacanco deal, he argues, proves the union's case that shorter working hours can create jobs, or at least prevent redundancies.

The Gelsenkirchen company certainly chose to take a pragmatic view and set aside ideological considerations. The employers' association might choose to follow suit.

Michael Brocker (Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 22 August 1982)

Gelsenkirchen is an industrial city of 300,000 in the Ruhr that has 11.5 per cent out of work.

But Gelsenkirchen has pioneered what may turn out to be a revolutionary change.

Nine jobs have been saved by Nacanco, a US manufacturer of cans for the soft drink industry, working a 36-hour week on full pay. Nine is a small figure, but it represents a breakthrough.

Nacanco's Gelsenkirchen works employ 180, including 130 shift workers. Since June the shift workers have worked a 36-hour week for the same pay as before.

The company has ridden roughshod over a tenet of the employers' association that there must be no cut in the number of hours worked per week.

The shorter working week was negotiated, oddly enough, as part of a redundancy settlement. On 11 May the management had served notice to sack 26 of its workers.

The redundancies were necessary, it argued, to rationalise output and boost productivity.

Nacanco and IG Metall, the iron, steel and engineering workers' union, agreed to terms that rescued nine of the 26 jobs, reducing the working week at the same time.

At Nacanco staff work six days a week and round the clock, which would normally mean three shifts and a 48-hour week.

After the 1979 steelworkers' strike the shift workers were given a free shift every fourth day, but despite complicated arrangements it was often cancelled or rescheduled.

So many workers reported sick that some other arrangement seemed inevitable.

The nucleus of the deal is a fourth shift, with Nacanco shift workers now working on a four-week rota: 32 hours on four days in the first week, 40 hours on five days in the second, 24 hours on three days in the third and 48 hours on six days in the fourth.

Depending on the shift plan workers

■ INDUSTRY

All signposts point to a pessimistic future

The mood in German industry has never been so gloomy. The reasons are the high rate of insolvencies, the desperate trouble at AEG, rising unemployment, fewer orders, high interest rates and a threatening trade war with America.

A glance back, at last year's balance sheets doesn't brighten the gloom at all.

The top 100 have their shining stars even in this business year. Fuel and power company Veba has lifted its sales to near DM50bn; Daimler closed the year with the best profits in its history; Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm grew by almost 50 per cent; and IBM managed to generate DM500m in profits from a sales volume of only DM8bn.

But these are exceptions. The fact is that:

- Once solid branches of industry are declining rapidly;

- What growth there is in industry comes primarily from inflation and mergers;

- Innovative firms have become rare among giant companies.

Steel mills, electrical engineering, construction, shipbuilding, it makes no difference: what once spearheaded *Wirtschaftswunder* is now spearheading nothing.

Steel and electrical companies were the main failures of the 1981 business year. Six companies closed last year with losses of more than DM100m, and three of them were steel mills: Hoesch, Salzgitter and Röhring.

Steel earnings grew only haltingly. Thyssen and Klöckner were the only ones who managed to hold their positions in the list of annual sales.

The steel mills were also among those companies that had the largest layoffs. Hoesch alone reduced its work force by 10 per cent in the year.

Electrical engineering is in poor shape. The AEG trouble disguises the

State company chiefs 'acted like capitalists'

The managers of German state-owned companies acted like the toughest of free-enterprise champions during the 1975 slump, says a report by an employers research group, the Institute of German Industry (IWI).

Instead of trying to stabilise the situation with a sound investment and employment policy, they laid off workers regardless of the employment outlook and ignored overall economic requirements.

They were guided entirely by product demand and liquidity.

Many of the companies are run purely on business lines and managers are said to have ignored the common benefit element when it was their duty not to ignore it.

IWI wants companies to be sold off to the private sector: if all this is true, IWI should call for the resignation of the managers, not privatisation.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 19 August 1982)

fact that this whole branch of industry is in difficulties.

In 1981, three names disappeared from the list of Germany's 100 largest industrial firms. All were electrical: Miele, Bauknecht and Diehl.

Makers of home appliances and electronic equipment were particularly hard hit. Grundig and Philips failed to improve their sales figures, despite inflation, and their work forces shrank by 15 per cent.

Even Siemens (the leader in this branch) which had long ago rid itself of the home appliances sector through a cooperation agreement with Bosch, made a relatively poor showing in the list of Germany's five largest concerns.

While Veba, VW, Daimler and Hoechst showed growth of at least 14 per cent, Siemens only just managed 15 per cent.

Germany's growth champions were again branches of industry and companies whose business is linked in one way or another with the energy sector.

Disregarding some exceptions, oil companies and energy supply firms showed considerable sales increases.

The oil companies demonstrated, however, that high sales figures do not necessarily mean high profits. Despite their high prices, Deutsche BP and Chevron closed the year with considerable losses.

A comparison of earnings shows that the big oil corporations' business is far from lucrative for the national economy as a whole. BP was in place number 60 in terms of earnings although among the top ten in sales.

The disproportion between sales and earnings is similar for other oil companies.

Even Veba, which is first in sales, is only sixth in earnings. The reason is that high purchase prices for oil have bloated the sales figures.

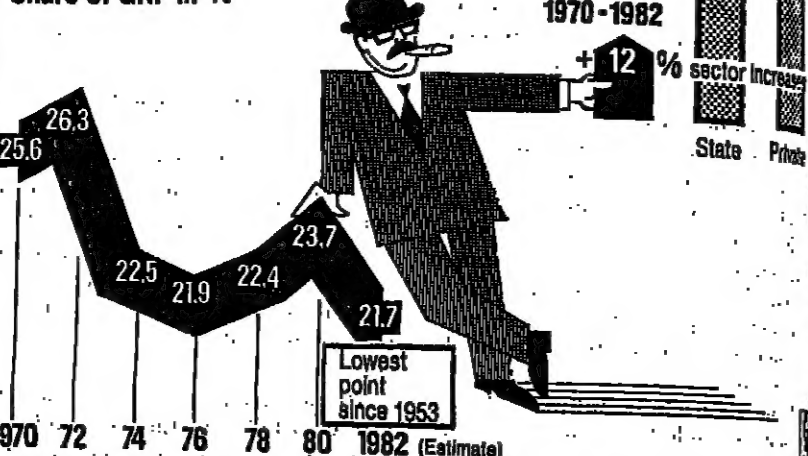
For instance, the growth in turnover in the chemicals industry resulted only from the high prices for petrochemicals. In real terms, the manufacturers of paints, plastics, fibres and fertilisers sold less in 1981 than in the previous year.

Though Hoechst, BASF and Bayer managed to maintain their places on the industrial list, the chemicals giants are among those branches of industry that are in danger.

At the end of last year, when there was already a slump on the domestic market, it was exports that still kept the economy ticking over. As a result, the balance of payments that had been in

Not enough investment

Share of GNP in %



In any event, chemicals seem to have problems handling biotechnology and microelectronics, the two great promises for the future.

Innovation shows results in the performance list of Germany's industry only where microelectronics is involved.

The earnings champion remains the computer manufacturer IBM. IBM's small competitor, Nixdorf, is still trying to grow up; but it ranks 76th in the list of earnings, despite its 91st place in sales.

And the future looks bad; the ten largest industrial corporations — all of them still blue chip — have done away with 100,000 jobs since the 1974 oil shock; and the employment forecasts are even more grim.

No economist worth his salt has any doubt now that next year's unemployment figure will be well above the two million mark.

The only people who have more work than they can cope with are the receivers.

Like AEG chief executive Heinz Dürr, more than 5,700 German businessmen have so far this year applied to the courts for receivership.

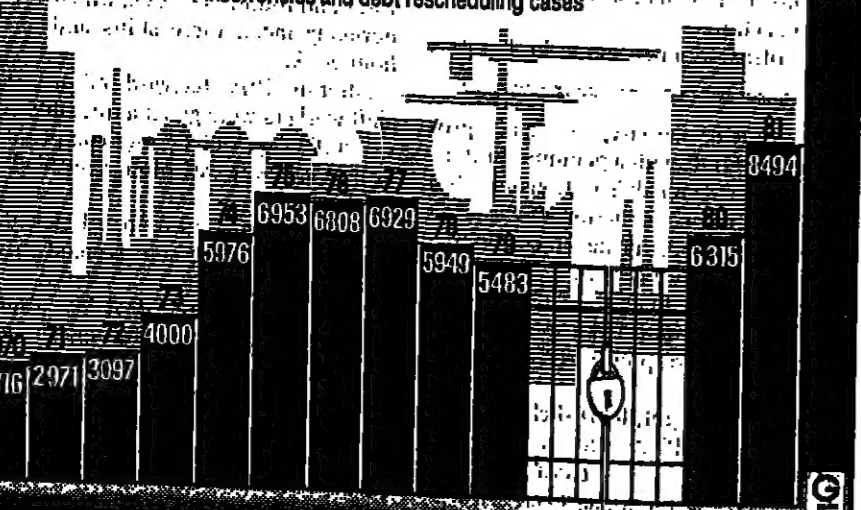
That is 50 per cent more than a year earlier, which was already marked by an unprecedented tide of bankruptcies. And the companies that go bust today will be unable to provide jobs tomorrow.

What has heightened the pessimism of the business community and economists still further is the fact that even the last pillar of business is showing signs of collapsing: exports.

At the end of last year, when there was already a slump on the domestic market, it was exports that still kept the economy ticking over. As a result, the balance of payments that had been in

Going to the wall

Insolvencies and debt rescheduling cases



the red for the past two years was due to come into the black again. But last summer saw a severe decline in foreign orders as a result of continued recession in the buyer countries.

Since the slump in European countries is likely to continue next year, German business must not pin its hopes on foreign customers, says the Kiel Institute for the World Economy. Revitalisation must be generated at home.

But there is no hope of demand in consumer goods markets. Private consumption is dropping steadily compared with the overall sales of the economy.

Surveys show that purse-strings are kept tight in the near future as well. This is not surprising: there is not enough money around.

Lower wages

Moved by industry's complaints that high wage costs were stripping it of the money needed for investment, the trade unions have agreed to wage deals that made the workers' earnings (adjusted for inflation) decline.

The unions reasoned that it was more important to safeguard existing jobs and create new jobs than to generate more consumption.

But the business community did not stick to its part of the bargain, and promised investments failed to materialise. In fact, renewals and expansion of production plants were scrapped or delayed.

The daily *Frankfurter Rundschau* angrily accused management of going on an investment strike.

The fact is that it is not so much a shortage of cash that has stripped industry of the courage to invest.

There is enough cash around despite all the crying about poor earnings and high costs. According to Bundesbank statistics, the business community invested about DM54bn on capital markets in 1981 alone — close to DM16bn more than in the previous year. In the same period, investments in plant and equipment declined by 33 per cent.

The reason for this is the high return offered by investments in securities — much safer and more profitable business than expansion and similar investments.

But when managers behave like pensioners concerned with their nest egg, industry shows signs of old age; and when that happens the outlook is bleak indeed.

Wolfgang Gehrmann
(Die Zeit, 20 August 1982)

BUSINESS

Home electronics gets the digital fidgets

Home electronics industry in Germany is not doing well. Video recorder TV sets are the best sellers but sales have dropped off.

It is doing so badly that this year's show in Düsseldorf includes video recorders only on hi-fi sales.

Video recorders have been having a boom, especially during the World

Industry is hoping that innovation with a gimmick or two, will lure buyers back.

Home electronics firms have invested a lot of money in new technologies and promotion, but there are warehouses full of unsold colour television sets, video recorders and hi-fi sets.

High interest rates and the fact that modern stereo colour television sets are more expensive than the traditional sets mean that a lot of money is tied up by the surplus.

Throughout the world, production capacity for home electronics equipment is large, and demand is not rising as fast as the industry had hoped. Declining prices have failed to lure buyers back.

Video sales, for example, were booming until last Christmas and retail margins were adequate.

Then the results of huge Japanese production capacity, far beyond sales potential, began to become apparent. About DM1,000 was slashed off set prices.

The irony is that the Japanese themselves had been accusing the Germans of being concerned with sales only at the expense of earnings.

There is no end in sight to low prices. The manufacturers at Düsseldorf will try and maintain high prices, at least for new products, but they are unlikely to succeed.

Major Japanese manufacturers are still using price as their main competitive weapon.

Prices are likely to fall even further because the Japanese have come up against competition the European video System 2000 which is doing well. It is now second only to the VHS system.

For stereo TV sets, higher prices are unlikely. Even if the major TV channels decide to introduce more stereo programmes — and that is not likely — prices are not likely to firm.

But German makers are still ahead of the Japanese in this sector, and they have caught up with hi-fi.

The Japanese are not as confident as they once were, especially in hi-fi. The years of tough competition have taught the Germans some lessons. One is that new technologies will sell, even in a saturated market.

For this reason, the Düsseldorf show will be dominated by digital technology and microcomputers.

This has improved the sound reproduction in audio sets still further and has simplified the handling of video sets.

Mini sets and micro-cassettes mark developments in the pocket stereo sector.

The Düsseldorf show will see the first official presentation of the compact disc, the CD record with laser sound pickup.

But the conventional record has also improved its quality as a result of new

technologies; and this is bound to hamper CD sales. The same applies to the video disc, which will have to stand its ground against the video tape.

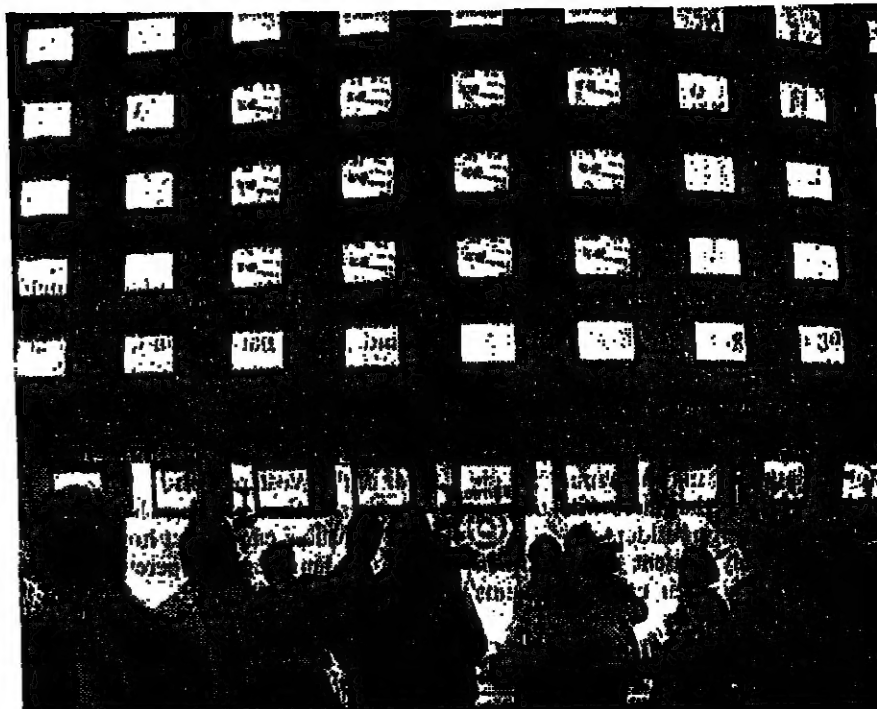
These few examples show that developments in home electronics continue. The consumer will ask himself: Isn't this business going overboard with innovations? Is it not overtaxing the capacity of the market? No sooner has the consumer adapted to the video tape than the video disc brings new commercial uncertainties.

There is much room for video-tape improvement. But the industry acts as if the some of technology has already been reached.

Things are even worse with portable video sets, where there are only interim solutions without a genuine alternative to the conventional super 8 movie camera. There is plenty of technical mumbo-jumbo that only deters the buyer.

It will take some time for home electronics equipment — especially the TV screen — to become a living room communications centre when the individual will be able to enter a dialogue with his home computer. Games and entertainment remain the dominant elements.

Karl Ohm
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 18 August 1982)



Picture, picture on the wall, which is the biggest seller of all? ... this year's hi-fi (and video) show in Düsseldorf. (Photo: dpa)

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(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 18 August 1982)

Video keeps the picture bright(er)

saw a breathing space in this sector, the report says.

The emphasis in sales is now shifting to medium-priced sets that are expected to attract new consumers.

A new rise in hi-fi sales is likely to occur around the middle of the decade when renewal needs and technical innovation, especially in digital technology, will have an effect.

Colour TV sets are expected to account for 33 (34) per cent of DM4.47bn (DM4.2bn) in 1982. They will remain the main pillar of this branch of industry.

Stereo sound is expected to get a boost from an increase in the number of stereo television programmes.

dpa/vwd
(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 21 August 1982)

■ EXTREMISTS

Trying to stop march of a racial sub-culture

Interior Ministry figures on right-wing extremism and xenophobia make disturbing reading.

Last year there was an average of one incident a day against foreigners, often with serious consequences.

To fail to appreciate that this is a danger sign is to misunderstand the situation, which is that there will soon be five million foreign residents.

They not only present Germans with problems; they often create problems for themselves too.

Take the abduction and murder of Wilhelm Bräsel, a jam manufacturer in Bad Honnef, near Bonn. His kidnappers seem to have been either Turks or Pakistanis.

Delegations representing both nationalities took part in his funeral procession. They are on the company's payroll and keenly aware of their position.

There could hardly be a more telling illustration of how difficult the situation of minorities in the Federal Republic of Germany has become.

The latest Interior Ministry report on political extremism fortunately does not content itself with listing the growing number of crypto-Nazi and violent racist organisations in painstaking detail.

Yet listing them is important enough; it gives some idea of the dubious names behind which narrow-mindedness, xenophobia and potential violence lurk.

It testifies to a racist sub-culture that in narrow-minded, ignorant superciliousness makes itself out to be the saviour of the Western world.

It goes without saying that government measures can at best hope to deal with the lamentable repercussions of such machinations.

It is up to school, the family and work to educate people to be more tolerant. The media does its best, but ignorance and prejudice seem to spring eternal.

They always put in a fresh appearance, differences being merely in degree. At times they are less widespread; at present more widespread.

This is not to say that everyone who has been known to give vent to dissatisfaction with states of affairs for which migrant workers may be responsible is a racist and a xenophobe.

Foreign residents may, for that matter, have more frequent criminal records in certain categories or areas, but here too there is no justification for generalising.

The overwhelming majority of foreigners who live and work in Germany abide by the law. Many have made permanent friends, married Germans and established ties of various kinds.

They came as strangers but grew used to Germany, just as Germans grew used to them. Initially they may have been rejected because they were different, but they have come to be cordially tolerated as different but fine people.

Herr Baum is right to note the connection between race prejudice and widespread inability to come to terms with foreign residents.

The racist, his report says, opposes in his hatred everything and everyone who is alien, including Turks who have long been naturalised and deserve to be regarded as fellow-citizens.

What makes right-wing groups particularly dangerous is that they differ widely in the methods they feel are appropriate, thereby making susceptible members of the public liable to fall for their arguments.

They by no means always call for the use of force, but it is almost invariably in the background, as it were.

Their very choice of language shows them, and their counterparts at the other end of the political spectrum, to be brutal and, at the best of times, misanthropic.

If, as Herr Baum says, right-wing activity looks like increasing we shall have to be particularly vigilant.

Karl Hugo Pruys
(Nordwest Zeitung, 20 August 1982)

Neo-Nazis: a bit short on ideas, but ready to die for them

had this to say about his motives in a TV interview:

"It was the group that he joined and they gave him strength. Unfortunately it happened to be that particular group. He might well have accepted any other."

Sure enough, it was not ideological conviction that made him seek comradeship and an escape from isolation into the right-wing scene.

His new friends have him straightforward answers to questions he was unable to answer, and he grew increasingly extremist in outlook in response to opposition.

There were counter-demonstrations where he lived, and they were aimed at him among others after his encounters with the police and the notoriety gained from being described in the local paper as a neo-Nazi.

He was later seen as a *Wehrsportgruppe Hoffmann* activist in a photo in *Stern* magazine and evidently modelled himself on the Nazi concept of the political soldier.

His story, like that of the other two, testifies to the contempt right-wing terrorists feel for their own lives, let alone those of others.

It is an expression of strict moral views and an ethic of ideology that simplifies social problems into black and white, with the emphasis on the use of force.

They see the use of force as part of the struggle for survival, as the distinction between an elite and the herd masses who can only be roused by spectacular activity.

The values right-wing youngsters concentrate in include struggle, honour, sacrifice and selflessness.

They try to offset the threadbare nature of their political views by personal readiness to give up a bourgeois career and devote themselves entirely to political struggle.

In drawing such a clear distinction between the elite and the masses, between friend and foe, they readily accept not only the idea of violence but also that of risking their own lives.

This is an outlook characterised by ascetic self-denial and contempt for human life. A lengthy prison sentence is viewed as the price a political soldier must be ready to pay.

Young people on the brink of a right-wing career can easily be prompted to burn their bridges by being branded in the media, at school and by the police.

Eike Hennig, a Kassel sociologist, has interviewed 22 right-wing extremist youngsters in depth and evaluated their court records.

He has referred more than once to the problematic character of the issue. Calls for stiffer punishment and strict bans may be understandable, but they are not going to solve the political problem of right-wing extremism.

Right-wing terrorism is based on activities that do not require lengthy planning, and that makes the kamikaze mentality of right-wing youngsters so uncontrollably dangerous.

Their activities may be politically pointless but they matter to other neo-Nazis. Schubert, Oxner, Wagner and others are martyrs.

The role they are allotted is the part played by Horst Wessel and Herbert Norkus for the Nazis prior to 1933.

Peter Dudek
(Vorwärts, 19 August 1982)

Terror of the right link with failure

The desire to end political and constitutional coupled with an inclination to is about all left- and right-wing extremists have in common, says the Justice Ministry.

It concludes from a detailed survey of left-wing extremism and an inventory of right-wing activities that the poles apart in other respects.

Right-wingers, especially young Nazis, usually have a social background that would seem to fit the class not like a glove.

They are lower- or middle-class origin and have seldom made headway at school or university.

The Ministry has reached the same conclusion from a survey of left-wing offenders sentenced between 1967 and 1982 that personal failures prompts them to let off steam by wing activities.

This particularly applies to young Nazis, who in many cases are felt to have been attracted to right-wing ideas more by disappointments at school than by right-wing inclinations and convictions.

The survey also looks into how right-wingers behave in court. They are keen to tell the world what they are. At times they even seem to have given a prison sentence, thereby making their *Führer*.

A contributory factor could be that both while they are serving sentence and on release they are in the lurch by their right-wing friends.

In Frankfurt and Bochum, for instance, there are well-run organisations help right-wingers serving and leaving prison.

Amendments to criminal code are under discussion to help deal with the violent and the lamprey.

The association, which has 330 affiliated clubs and 18,000 members, has a five-year observation programme.

Over 1,000 divers will photograph underwater flora and fauna and record around chemical and biological workings. They will do so all over the country and be aided by five mobile laboratories.

They are keen campaigners to keep the rivers pure. Last year alone they had 3,000 tons of garbage out of water in various parts of Germany.

Their tally included garbage typical of affluent society, such as used cars, refrigerators, washing machines and drums.

dpa
(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 9 August 1982)

Change sought

But amendments are felt to be a bit in dealing with minor neo-Nazi offences, especially those connected with agitation, which accounts for the share of court cases against right-wingers.

Nazi propaganda ought to be beyond the deadline laid down in the statutes of limitations.

Selling Nazi emblems is illegal, manufacturing and importing them ought to be illegal too.

Stricter punishment ought to be meted out for denying that offences committed (the "Auschwitz lies") line of argument.

Fifty-four political extremists are currently in prison. Twenty-two have been killed in connection with terrorist crimes of violence.

But the Justice Ministry's survey not aimed primarily at compiling statistics or at trying to get legal positions made stricter.

Its main aim is to foster the intellectual, political debate as a means of combating extremism. The upsurge in neo-Nazi activities indicates how the need is.

Heinz-Peter Fiedler
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 26 August 1982)

THE ENVIRONMENT

The role of chemicals in the growing of food

Chemicals are universal. Plants absorb nitrogen from the soil regardless whether it is biologically degraded manure or factory-fresh mineral fertiliser.

Chemical processes constantly recur in the part of the digestive cycle of man and animals.

Yet people are still worried by the use of chemicals in the soil and chemical fertilisers.

The German Nutrition Association has a number of scientists to say whether chemicals are helpful or harmful.

The life expectancy has increased from the Middle Ages to 75 in Germany. This partly because of better food.

In the mid-19th century famine, typhoid and rickets were common in many because of bad eating habits.

Nature foods once caused ergotism, diabetes, microbe poisoning and tuberculosis (from infected cow's milk),

Professor F. Kimmel.

Heard frequently contained sawdust,

starch and toxic salts, while consumers had to live with plaster of Paris in their cooking salt.

This did not improve until the 1880 Foodstuffs Act and compulsory inspection of meat.

This roughly coincided with the industrialisation of agriculture to enable farmers to feed a rapidly growing population.

Western industrialised countries could never have developed as they did had it not been for mineral fertilisers.

Yet nowadays chemicals in the soil are frequently vilified and there is a persistent trend toward alternative farming along biological and dynamic lines.

Professor Konrad Mengel of the department of plant nutrition at Giessen University does not feel such solutions are an answer.

Mineral fertilisers are indispensable if there is to be food enough for everybody, he says.

In years gone by the yield of one hectare was enough to feed one person. Nowadays it is enough to feed four or five. Alternative farmers harvest crops of only about half the size.

The roots of a blade of corn absorb exactly the amount of nitrogen, salt and trace elements they need for growth. They cannot distinguish between natural manure and mineral fertiliser.

Comparative analysis of wheat grown in one way or the other at the Federal Grain and Potato Research Institute in Detmold has failed to reveal differences in nutritional content or baking quality.

Plant protection agents used by conventional farmers to combat weeds, pests and fungi keep the grain healthy and ensure that people who eat it do not suffer from ergotism or other toxic infections.

Alternative farmers would need to work much more labour-intensively to achieve similar results, but their yields are lower and their produce is more expensive.

Farmers are told to use no more pesticides or other agents than absolutely necessary in order to avoid toxic infections.

Research scientists are also engaged in a constant bid to develop substances that are less toxic in their effect on both man and animals.

The toxins released into the atmosphere by industry, traffic and coal-fired power stations cannot, unlike fertiliser and pesticide input, be accurately quantified.

Were they pioneers in environmental protection? And if they were, is it not ironic that their children and grandchildren are still having to issue the same appeals?

This having been said, one can but welcome the enthusiasm mountain-lovers devote to alleviating symptoms of mountaineering for a mass public.

But it is no use officials feeling that anti-litter campaigns will solve all the problems. The Alps have other environmental problems that badly need solving.

Campaigning against litter louts is not going to solve problems of overdevelopment.

dpa
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 20 August 1982)

Appeal to keep mountains free of litter

And there they swing, oscillating merrily and boosting the environmental awareness of the thoughtful hiker as he winds his way back downhill.

The campaign undoubtedly deserves unstinting support even though it prompts nostalgic recollections of past generations of mountain-lovers who were just as keen to keep litter at bay.

Gertrud Mathes, who is a doctor by profession, also has a word of advice. "Don't eat too many mushrooms," she says.

Time and again people eat enormous quantities of mushrooms and then attribute the stomach ache they so richly deserve to mushroom poisoning.

dpa
(Der Tagespiegel, 24 August 1982)

But lead, cadmium and sulphur dioxide settle evenly on conventionally and alternatively cultivated land, so toxin counts in the soil are unlikely to differ markedly.

Near industrial areas and autobahns the level is high. In rural areas where there is little or no industry the toxin count is low in either case.

One can understand consumers wanting to eat as natural a diet as possible, but can food be natural or ought it to be?

Professor Hanns Frank of the Federal Nutrition Research Institute, Karlsruhe, is an expert on nature's own toxins and well suited to answer this question.

Green beans, he says, need to be boiled 15 minutes before they can be safely eaten. Unripe tomatoes and potatoes contain solanine.

Bitter almonds and the stones of plums, peaches and the like contain highly poisonous Prussic acid. Oxalic acid in rhubarb, spinach, beetroot and gooseberries can cause liver and kidney damage.

Cheese, wine and yeast extract contain biogenic amines. Leaf vegetables such as spinach and lettuce contain nitrates; so does tapwater.

In the human body these two, biogenic amines and nitrates, can be converted into nitrosamines, which are suspected of being carcinogenic.

Natural food is not necessarily good. It may be mouldy or otherwise infected, says Professor Jürgen Snell of the department of foodstuffs hygiene and technology at West Berlin University of Technology.

The risk of microbe impurities is still much greater than that of a health hazard being caused by environmental toxins or drugs.

A network of checkpoints with sensitive equipment is maintained all over Germany and capable of identifying quantities of toxic substance as minute as a billionth of a gram.

Living standards and public hygiene cannot be maintained without the use of chemicals, says Professor Hans-Jürgen Hapke of the Scientific Research Association's working party on residual toxins in foodstuffs.

Veterinary medicines, fodder additives, pesticides and food additives may only be used subject to official permission. There are limits to the quantities that may be used, and breaches of the regulations are punishable offences.

To the best of current scientific knowledge people in the Federal Republic of Germany need have no immediate fear of chemistry slowly but surely poisoning them.

Overeating and an unbalanced diet have much more serious repercussions at present. They are partly to blame for the high death toll of cardiac and circulatory complaints.

Lotte Ludwig
(Die Welt, 21 August 1982)

What matters is that there is someone who will take the trouble for them. They themselves wouldn't know the difference — until it was too late!

The Nature Conservation Association favours mushroom-gathering restrictions, or alternatively a total ban, with advice bureaux being closed too.

This is what is done in the South Tyrol region of Italy, in a number of Swiss cantons and in parts of Austria.

Conservationists feel a number of cases of poisoning could be averted by this move. It would also reduce the havoc wrought on nature.

Alfred Dick, the Bavarian Environment Minister, has warned mushroom-gatherers not to ravage the countryside. In particular, they ought not to trample on poisonous, inedible species.

They should not view mushrooms merely in terms of suitability for eating but look on them as part of nature, in which they have a range of tasks to perform.

Gertrud Mathes, who is a doctor by profession, also has a word of advice. "Don't eat too many mushrooms," she says.

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dpa
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 20 August 1982)

The poisonous mushroom season arrives

Mushroom-gathering takes its annual toll at this time of the year. In late summer, as the days grow wetter, growing numbers of mushroom-lovers walk round the woods, their baskets at the ready.

Not everyone can tell the difference between an edible mushroom and a poisonous one. In Munich alone 20 people have been hospitalised in a week with mushroom poisoning.

"This year is going to be a particularly bad one," says Gertrud Mathes, head of the Munich emergency switchboard for poisoning cases.

She runs one of 17 such centres that have existed in the Federal Republic of Germany since 1957.

Most mushroom-gatherers feel they know what they are doing, so when they feel sick and suffer from diarrhoea and colic they are reluctant to admit they may have been mistaken.

Yet they owe their knowledge merely to having read a picture book about what grows in the woods and hedgerows.

Another category of mushroom-gatherers consists of people who readily admit they don't know much about mushrooms, but go out into the autumn woods and gather them by the basket just the same!

Bavarian nature conservationists are upset because, they say, mushroom-gathering has assumed the proportions of a popular sport.

Scores of people scour the woods and pick everything in sight, then flock to the mushroom advice bureau, where 95 per cent of their pickings have to be thrown away immediately.

Many mushroom-gatherers only go gathering because they know the advice bureaux will go through the contents of their baskets and sort the mushrooms from the toadstools.

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dpa
(Der Tagespiegel, 24 August 1982)

■ AVIATION

The new Airbus keeps ahead of schedule

The Airbus test division, headed by pilots Bernard Ziegler and Pierre Baud, are about three weeks ahead of schedule on the A 310, Europe's answer to the Boeing 767.

Its performance, which was expected to be good, has proved even better, and the Airbus test staff are in a position to allow themselves the luxury of an occasional long-range test flight.

They are absolutely delighted with their latest model. The third prototype has just flown a five-hour maiden flight. It is the first to use the General Electric engines preferred by Lufthansa.

About 350 of an estimated 1,250 hours of test flights have so far been logged without mishap, and M. Baud says this is largely because most components have been taken from the 310's big brother, the A 300 Airbus.

The A 300 has been airborne for years, so test pilots and engineers can concentrate on systems newly developed or changed in design, such as the wing units and cathode-ray cockpit instrumentation.

The wings are the chief new feature of the A 310, the fuselage having been borrowed from the A 300 (but shortened by nearly seven metres).

Design engineers have succeeded in matching uplift and aerodynamics so well that fuel consumption is even lower than was expected from an improved engine design.

Aerodynamic resistance is 3.5 per cent lower than expected, cruising speed 0.02 mach higher and the altitude at which certain disturbances give trouble is 2,000ft higher.

Long-distance trials have shown the range to be 10 per cent better than expected: 3,230 knots, or nearly 6,000km.

The wing design is nearly supercritical, as aerodynamics specialists call a design that does not cause eddies and require fins or other bits and pieces variously known as wing gales or vortex generators.

The wing is so "clean" that even uplift aids used in taking off or landing have been simplified.

In the first stage of flight trials, M. Baud says, tests have been carried out that might make lengthy aerodynamic design changes necessary. But none were. The design is just right.

The next items on the list are individual systems and the way in which they function together. With so many electronic devices made by so many different manufacturers incompatibilities can easily occur.

When power supply was switched from the auxiliary turbine to the main engines the reading was no longer flashed on to the screen, for instance.

"It's not a serious problem," says the French test pilot, "but it clearly won't do in operational use."

So the computer systems and monitor



Pilot's eye view of the A 310.

screens will be put through their paces with strict attention to detail; they are the nerve centre of the two-man cockpit, the A 310 being designed to dispense with the flight engineer.

The crew must be able to rely on their electronic equipment, especially the systems that indicate something is wrong, because they are designed not only to show which controls are not working but also to indicate how to rectify the defect.

This failsafe system operates on a single screen, unlike navigational and other instrumentation, which shows up twice, for the pilot and co-pilot, and is, moreover, interchangeable.

To cut costs and weight there are no more mechanical links between the cockpit and individual systems, such as the ailerons. Orders are given electronically and carried out on the spot.

"The next step is a fly-by-wire aircraft," says M. Baud.

He and his associates wonder why design engineers were so pessimistic about the performance they expected the 310 to give. But the answer is fairly obvious.

It is better to supply the customer with a better product than he was expecting than to have to admit that it doesn't entirely come up to expectations.

Neither the Pratt & Whitney nor the General Electric engines are yet available.

ble in their final shape. Engineers still trying to shave a whisker or two fuel consumption.

In terms of an aircraft's life-span saving could be tens of thousands of dollars. But the devil count is in the factory. It too is better than expected.

Airbus customers take good care to ensure that quality is delivered and performance undertakings are upheld.

Lufthansa and Swissair are the customers and have zero engineering on their own at Toulouse to supervise assembly of the 310.

They and their test staff keep the components to be used in a version of the A 310 their respective lines have ordered.

The Airbus consortium has chosen to be proud of the components with US aircraft that are made in connection.

If what airline men say is true, the models are assembled by skilled specialists, whereas US aircraft are often put together by semi-skilled operators.

There is a corresponding price differential, but the Airbus men feel they will be in the running. The Boeing may be licensed to fly a few more, but the A 310 Airbus looks like being as popular with airlines as the 300 has been.

Klaus Müller
(Die Welt, 21 August 1982)

Cost savings by make-believe flying

cial airliners up to and including jumbo.

This can be done by feeding pilot's instructions to in-flight computer programmes geared to the dynamic behaviour of other aircraft.

The cockpit can be fitted out with entirely different set of dashboard controls, making it possible to test the performance of completely new aircraft designs before they have gone much further than the drawing-board.

A formidable amount of electronic equipment will need to be installed on board experimental aircraft, which is why it will not be taken into service until the end of 1984.

The Aerospace Research Association does not expect to make it available to contract hire until 1986.

Gerhard Thibaut
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 15 August 1982)

THE CINEMA

Leni Riefenstahl's part in art, politics and a half share of the truth

Leni Riefenstahl, director of the Nazi propaganda film *Triumph of the Will*, is 80. This controversial woman is to make an extraordinary post-war comeback.

In the opening scene of the film that has her, infamous a dark screen slowly lit to reveal a German eagle holding the swastika in its talons.

Over the dark clouds a propeller aircraft flies and this text is flashed on the screen:

"On 5 September 1934, 20 years after the outbreak of the Great War, 16 years after the beginning of German suffering and 10 months after the start of the human renaissance, Adolf Hitler flew to Nuremberg."

Light breaks through the clouds, the eagle starts to descend and there is a fly-eye view of uniformed men marching through the streets of the city.

They are there for the Nazi rally and the Führer arrives from on high to address them. In Frau Riefenstahl's film he clearly surpassed the limits of mortality.

In 12 years of the Third Reich there was no film to equal it in more person giving expression to the Nazi legend of Adolf Hitler and what he was to stand for.

Where is the special skill of the director of *Berlin, Symphony of a City*, as a better choice for the task, and Riefenstahl put together a prologue.

In the Weimar era Riefenstahl had worked for the Communists and his prologue explained Hitler's rise to power in economic terms, strictly in accordance with the materialistic view of history.

But what Hitler had in mind was something entirely different. He wanted the film to steer clear of history and world affairs, to be a grand demagogical theatre, an intoxicating experience, an overwhelming vision of the mystery of power.

This was the impression the Nuremberg rallies were intended to convey to the masses who took part, and it was certainly what he wanted the film to put across.

So the Führer was unimpressed by Riefenstahl's prologue and delighted with Riefenstahl's film.

She has consistently said in her defence that she merely filmed what was there to be seen. She was indeed the chronicler of a production, but that was not all her role, can be said to, have been.

Subtle camera positioning, sophisticated cutting, rhythm, assembly and music intensify the theatricality of the Nuremberg rally and cut out the boredom of endless speeches, march-pasts and parades.

They condense and heighten the effect by making the cinema-goer omnipresent. He is shown everything that went on, much more than any one person who was present at the rally could possibly have seen.

It takes the film version to put the Nazi propaganda into full effect.

Frau Riefenstahl says she filmed the truth and nothing but the truth, but

after the war Germans slowly came to terms with their immediate past, usually by reducing it in scale and making it appear ridiculous.

Hitler's theatricals and perfidious rhetoric were taken out of context and made to look like figures of fun. People who had not lived through the Third Reich were bound to feel the Führer had been a foaming charlatan.

Yet if that was all Hitler had been, why was it that millions had followed him into perdition? Much has been written about the banal nature of evil, but his fascination is nowhere more apparent than in Frau Riefenstahl's most famous film.

As a documentary it is unquestionably a masterpiece, and a masterpiece that made her many enemies.

She has always argued that she was interested solely in beauty and aesthetic effects and not in the least concerned with politics.

Hitler personally entrusted her with making a film about the Reichsparteitag, or party rally, whereupon she told him she didn't even know the difference between the SA and the SS.

She so grotesquely misunderstood the diabolical nature of the Nazi set-up that she failed to understand her infatuation with the Führer was an ideal prerequisite for her *Triumph of the Will* precisely because she was politically naive.

She suggested Walter Ruttmann, the director of *Berlin, Symphony of a City*, as a better choice for the task, and Ruttmann put together a prologue.

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where life itself is turned into a lie, untruth is life itself.

Goebbels said *Triumph of the Will* was more than a mere propaganda film along the lines laid down by his Ministry. Not even the most ardent expression of Nazi ideology could offset a lack of true artistry.

Art, he said, derived from being able, not from being willing. By and large the Nazi film industry turned out little that was of the standard Goebbels envisaged and Riefenstahl produced.

Her work was the exception that proved the rule, and it may well be that her sheer brilliance and breath of perverted genius fuelled the fires of endless squabbles.

After films such as *Hitlerjunge Quex* and *SA-Mann Brandt* the Nazis soon lost interest in filming their legends, but everyone who chose to stay in Germany and the film industry contributed to the optical illusion required by the system.

In 1974 Frau Riefenstahl was invited to attend a film festival in Telluride, Colorado. There were protests the city's Jewish mayor sought to appease by saying she was being honoured as an artist, not as an individual.

"C'est sûrement un strict dividing line between morality and art," David, the French painter, was an opportunist yet painted masterpieces.

At times art has next to nothing to do with honesty. The social context pales in comparison with personal memories, leaving only the artistic output, bereft of its superficial purpose.

Leni Riefenstahl is gradually being rediscovered, especially abroad where she has emerged as a cult figure alongside Wagner or Ernst Jünger.

She is a virtually ideal embodiment of the Teutonic nimbus of which the French, British and Americans can be so enamoured. Feminists too are quick to excuse her shortcomings.

They see her as a woman who held her own in an era upheld entirely different ideals. Cocteau once called a genius of the screen. This is sure to upset those who fail to see how art can prevail where terror and mass murder reign and no given to equating barbarity and the banal. Schiller, the German Classical dramatist, saw beauty as being the appearance of freedom. Leni Riefenstahl transfigured the very opposite, submission into the masses: *Triumph of the Will* is an apotheosis of uniformity, unanimity, strength and power. It backs soulless order against living chaos, uniformity against the spontaneity of freedom. Its monumental ap-

pearance was not just an ideology but the expression of human longing and so very much in keeping with the period that even foreigners were impressed.

In retrospect it is easy to pass judgment on Frau Riefenstahl's films. In a production by the Theatre du Soleil Klaus Mann's *Mephisto* was contrasted with still photos from Auschwitz.

This is an unhistorical, impermissible approach that has also been used in polemics against Frau Riefenstahl's work. It is unnecessary.

Even in the context in which they originated her films are by no means chaste and unpolitical.

Triumph of the Will was an attempt to make people forget the *putsch* in which SA leaders were eliminated and to demonstrate, closed ranks in Nazi Germany.

Her Olympic films fostered the illusion of a peace-loving Germany. They contain not the slightest trace, however hidden, of opposition to what at the time was politically opportune.

Yet those who chose not to keep their eyes closed could read between the lines of the Nuremberg rally, with its aggressive ritual, and visualise the disaster that could not be long in coming.

There is also evidence in support of Frau Riefenstahl's claim that she, was interested solely in power, beauty, and grace.

In her film about the Berlin Olympics more attention is definitely paid to Jesse Owens than will have been to the linking of Nazi race ideologists.

It is foolish to insinuate that this was a subtle form of resistance to the Nazi regime. Frau Riefenstahl was definitely part of the Third Reich.

In an interview she said Hitler was the greatest man who had ever lived. All great Germans, such as Nietzsche and Bismarck, had had their failings; not so the Führer. He alone was pure.

So she is on record as having said more than her fair share of fatuous nonsense. She was unquestionably pro-Nazi. But her films were less an expression of ideological outlook than of an aesthetically reduced relationship to reality.

As for her working methods, she said she first thought what to begin with.

Continued on page 12



Still taking pictures... Leni Riefenstahl in the 1970s (Photo: Sven Simon)

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HERITAGE

German archaeologists shovel up more at digs in Syria

German archaeologists are doing more spadework than ever in Syria. There will be at least a dozen digs and searches in various parts of the country this year.

The scientific headquarters of German archaeologists in Syria has for over two years been the office of the German Archaeological Institute in Damascus.

It supervises no fewer than five research projects in conjunction with Syrian archaeologists: in Damascus, in Palmyra, in Dumair (midway between the two), in Tartus and in Bosra.

The Damascus office is the 11th regional facility of the institute abroad. It was set up in October with the aid of a three-year grant from the Volkswagen Foundation.

It is the only foreign archaeological office currently based in Syria and concentrating solely on digs in Syria and in neighbouring Jordan and Lebanon.

Michael Meinecke, director of the Damascus office, recently outlined its work to an audience at the Goethe Institute in the Syrian capital.

German archaeology, he said, could look back on a long tradition of digging in this part of the world, which was why his institute had been given the go-ahead.

Spreading out

Since the turn of the century German archaeologists had played a leading role in unearthing Syria's past, and given the supra-regional importance of Syrian art and culture it was surprising a facility had not been established earlier.

Efforts had been made. The head office of the German Archaeological Institute decided in 1917 to set up a regional office in Damascus.

The suggestion was made by Theodor Wiegand, head of the department of antiquities at Berlin's museums and later president of the institute, who was working in Syria at the time.

It was thwarted by political developments as it happened, but if it had been set up it would have been the institute's third foreign station, the first two being in Rome and Athens.

Stations since established have been Istanbul, Cairo, Madrid, Baghdad, Tehran, Sanaa, Lisbon and Ankara.

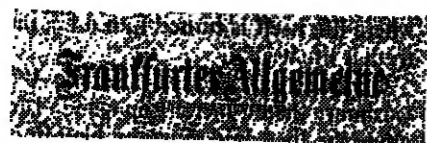
The 1917 bid, Meinecke said, was the result of 20 years of intensive research by German archaeologists in Syria, starting with 1897 and 1898 expeditions by Rudolf Ernst Brünnow and Alfred von Domaszewski.

They were first to file reports of numerous Roman and later historic monuments in Syria.

Kaiser Wilhelm visited the Ottoman Empire in 1897, taking in Damascus and Baalbek, and from then on funds were forthcoming to finance archaeological research.

The Deutsche Orient-Gesellschaft was set up not long after, initially concentrating on the excavation of Babylon but later digging in Syria too.

Excavations also began in Baalbek, supervised by Otto Puchstein, another later president of the German Archaeological Institute.



In a dig lasting several years the ruins of Palmyra were first probed in 1902, as were Roman temples in Syria and Lebanon.

In the course of an extensive expedition Max von Oppenheim, a German diplomat, discovered in 1899 the capital of a first-millennium-BC principality at Tell Halaf at the source of the Habus, a tributary of the Euphrates.

This tell was excavated with interruptions until 1929, systematically and with results.

The last major early research project in Syria Meinecke mentioned was a result of the expedition to the Euphrates region by Friedrich Sarre, head of the Islamic department at Berlin's museums.

Most of these projects were masterminded from Berlin, but Sarre's visit was to prove particularly fruitful.

Together with Ernst Herzfeld, the architect, he undertook in 1907 and 1908 a topographical survey of Rusafa, a centre of pilgrimage in late antiquity, and the early Islamic city of Raqqa.

Archaeological research in Syria first peaked when in November 1916 a Turkish-German unit for the protection of historic monuments was set up, headed by Theodor Wiegand.

It had only a year in which to work, but it worked hard until the Turkish forces withdrew from Syria. Its findings were published in a series of books that for the most part remain standard works on their subject.

This spate of activity was to have led to the establishment of a Damascus unit of the German Archaeological Institute, but the end of the First World War ended the whole idea.

It was not taken up again until after

the Second World War, when Syria gained independence and German archaeologists were invited by the directorate-general of antiquities and museums to undertake larger digs after a break of over 30 years.

The fresh start was begun by Johannes Kollwitz in 1952 at Rusafa, where digging continued until 1966 and was resumed in 1976 under the supervision of Thilo Ulbert on the institute's behalf. Work at Rusafa is still going on.

From 1956 Anton Moortgat excavated tells in north-eastern Syria. From 1958 he embarked on several digs at Tell Huweira near the Turkish border under the auspices of the Oppenheim Foundation.

Tell Huweira dates back to the third millennium BC. Excavation there is shortly to be resumed.

In 1962 and 1963 Klaus Briisch, working from the Cairo office, excavated the early Islamic palace complex at Uas in the southern Syrian desert.

Germany has stepped up archaeological work in Syria over the past two de-

Third World museum exhibits 'should be returned'

Hildegard Hamm-Brücher, Minister of State at the Bonn Foreign Office, says some, if not all, of the Third World's cultural heritage owned by German museums should be returned to countries of origin.

A "liberal, open approach" to developing countries' demands for restoration of their cultural birthright should be taken, she said on returning from a Unesco conference in Mexico City.

As proposed by Greece and other countries the conference unanimously adopted a resolution calling for international negotiations on the subject.

Frau Hamm-Brücher says Bonn

Siegfried Kracauer and others have discovered pre-fascist characteristics.

But such allegations are nonsense, just as is the accusation that her footage of Nubia in the Sudan bears a resemblance to the black uniforms of the SS.

"I am fascinated," she once said, "by what is beautiful, strong, healthy and alive. What I seek is harmony."

She always has been and still is an aesthetic extremist. Her films testify to genius and to the borderlines of this intoxication with beauty, glamour and monumentality.

Never has the undeniable power of seduction exercised by the Nazi been displayed more strikingly than in Frau Riefenstahl's films.

As the late Rainer Werner Fassbinder put it: "The Führer was simply something marvellous and grandiose as people saw him."

Leif Riefenstahl's films deal with the deceptive fascination exercised by dictatorship, and that is why they retain their share in the truth: a half-share.

Michael Schwarze (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 21 August 1982)

cedes, Meinecke said, because of an international appeal to probe ruins north that were threatened by the rates dam.

Leading German archaeologists engaged in field work here have been Ernst Heinrich, Hartmut Kühn, Friedhelm Kühn, Wolfgang Röllig, Eva Strommenger-Nagel.

Several digs and surface probes followed by a spate of further digs. Five major German digs were carried out in the Euphrates area, so Meinecke said, is clearly a hub of man archaeological activity in the East.

This dynamic development has laid the groundwork for the establishment of the Damascus office. Its brief is to probe the "independent development of the Syrian art region beyond the borders and bearing in mind relations with neighbouring areas at times."

He referred to a touring exhibition, The Land of Baal - Syria: Peoples and Cultures, as an illustration of the supra-regional significance of the Syrian art region.

The exhibition has already been shown in several German cities and is now on show in Aachen, Tübingen, Frankfurt and probably Munich.

Wilhelm Kollwitz (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 20 August 1982)

EDUCATION

No youthful blanket of resistance to technology, says report

There is no great blanket of opposition to technological progress among young people, says a survey commissioned by Bonn Education Minister Björn Engholm.

The survey was carried out to find out whether technical education policies are geared to the demands of commerce and industry.

The Council of Scientific Advisers to the Bonn government warned not long ago that it would be a mistake to perpetuate the legend that there was a shortage of skilled manpower in technical fields.

If policies were pursued on this basis, the outcome might well be a surplus of technicians, it claimed. In a preface to the survey, Herr Engholm writes: "We are bound to approve of the commitment shown by young people to improve the environment and determined to ensure that their children will still be able to breathe fresh air, hear birds sing and see green fields and forests."

But Luddite views and failure to value the importance of a high level of technology for the economy, job safety and society as a whole is as dangerous a blind faith in what is technically and economically feasible."

The debate, he says, must be brought to a more objective level now that the belief in technology has given

way to a more level-headed, critical point of view.

Increasing proof was required of the need for large-scale technological projects, calling for more discussion and greater powers of conviction in the early stages.

But that ought not to give cause for complaint provided it helped to ensure that technology grew safer and socially more acceptable and possible follow-up damage was avoided.

Views might have changed, but that did not mean that an entire generation of young people could be dismissed wholesale as hostile to technology.

The survey showed in detail that this wholesale claim was unwarranted. Forty-six per cent of young people questioned said they were generally in favour of technology.

Twenty-six per cent of the sample, a representative cross-section consisting of 2,000 youngsters, said they were on the sceptical side.

Twenty-nine per cent admitted that their views were ambivalent.

Young people were neither prepared to accept technological progress uncritically nor generally opposed to the whole idea of technological progress.

Eighty-nine per cent agreed that technological progress is not bad in itself but it can be harmful at times if exaggerated.

Even young people who feel technological developments are more ominous than useful are by no means simply opposed to technology. Some are keenly interested in it.

Fifty-seven per cent of young people are taught a technical trade, Herr Engholm notes. Last year 36.1 per cent of university freshmen studied mathematics, science and engineering.

The number of freshmen studying engineering was 18.6 per cent higher than in 1980, which was an above-average increase.

The survey also shows that there are no fundamental ideological objections to technical careers, certainly not among young people with a certain amount of interest in technology.

So it is untrue to say that because of a dislike of such jobs the labour market is being deprived of potential scientists or technicians.

But Herr Engholm is worried about relations between school and technology and the wide gap between girls and technology.

While 57 per cent of boys said they were keen or very keen on technology, only 15 per cent of girls claimed to be interested.

He attributed this difference between the sexes and the different behaviour patterns adopted by girls in career choices to traditional expectations to which they were subjected in the family. In their social surroundings and in the media.

The girls themselves were well aware

that inability to cope with technology was a handicap.

"One of the most important findings of the survey, as I see it, is that more must be done to develop and encourage an interest in technology among girls."

"Close cooperation between home, school, the media and employers is called for," he wrote.

Technical basic knowledge and judgement ought also, he feels, to be taught as a matter of course at school. Including technical applications and problems in lessons is an outstanding opportunity of opening school to the reality of life.

Technology need not be included as a separate subject on the curriculum; it could well be incorporated in all existing subjects, especially maths, science and work studies.

Work studies, he says, must be a compulsory subject for students at all categories of school.

Roughly three out of four said they were not taught enough about technology at school. They were particularly critical of failure to relate lessons to life in practice.

Asked what they would have preferred to learn at school, they listed, in this order:

- practical technical skills,
- ability to judge the benefit and dangers of technology,
- knowledge of the modern working world and what technical careers called for,
- and a knowledge of the practical uses to which technology could be put.

Herr Engholm said it would be wrong to expect too much of school. It must not try to take society's place in ensuring that new large-scale technologies are readily accepted.

This was not a problem that affected only the young. "Only an open social debate on the opportunities and risks of new technology can lend a helping hand in this connection."

"Young people can thus learn that technological innovations must also be coped with in social terms."

Adn Brandes

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 12 August 1982)

Germans bankroll South African black teachers' college

A training college for black teachers is to be built in the black township of Soweto, in Johannesburg, with the help of German cash.

German companies in South Africa and the Land governments of North Rhine-Westphalia and Rheinland-Palatinate are raising 750,000 rand (about DM1.6 million).

The Bonn Foreign Office is to supply another 900,000 rand toward staff salaries, it was announced at a ceremony to lay the foundation stone.

The training college will cost an estimated 1.2m rand, or DM2.6m, to build and is intended to provide much-needed in-service training in maths and science for poorly trained black teachers.

Less than 40 per cent of staff at senior schools for black students in South Africa are suitably trained.

"The general level of education suffers and that is something a developing society cannot afford," said a representative of the centre's sponsor, the Urban Foundation.

The foundation uses funds privately donated to improve living conditions in black South African townships.

German companies active in South

Africa hope to have shown by their contribution toward the cost of building the centre that "genuine progress toward equality of opportunity in South Africa can only be accomplished via comprehensive, swift and effective improvements in education for black South Africans at all levels."

The private sector must join forces with the state in helping to ensure that this development is undertaken fast enough.

Ekkehard Bickhoff, the German ambassador in South Africa, said the project was a contribution toward peaceful development for a harmonious and stable future of all races in South Africa.

This German initiative, he said, showed that the cultural agreement between Bonn and Pretoria was not intended only for one group of the population but for everyone in both countries.

The German-financed centre will form part of a comprehensive further education centre in Soweto costing about 3.2m rand, or DM7m, in all.

The buildings will be financed largely by company and foundation funds and are due to be completed by 1984.

dpa (Kleiner Nachrichten, 19 August 1982)

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(Mannheimer Morgen, 11 August 1982)

MEDICINE

Inside the body: new examination method is '100 times better than X-rays'

Tomosynthesis is the latest 3D X-ray technique of looking inside the body or, in this case, the brain. One of its pioneers is a neuro-radiologist in Würzburg, where Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen discovered the X-ray in 1895.

To demonstrate the new technique Professor Maschallah Nadimi slots into position an X-ray plate consisting of dozens of exposures arranged like a chessboard.

He closes in on the plate with a miniature camera, while on the monitor screen brain tissue is seen with increasing clarity.

Every blood vessel, even the finest, is clearly visible in three dimensions, and the diagnosis is equally self-evident to the brain specialist.

The patient is suffering from a dangerous vascular contraction at a certain point in the brain. Surgeons can now decide where and how to operate and estimate the risks of brain surgery.

Professor Nadimi is a naturalised German. He is Persian by birth. He is head of the department of neuro-radiology at Würzburg University Hospital's brain clinic.

The new technique is his brainchild. It is a distinction he shares with staff at the Hamburg medical research laboratories of Philips, the Dutch electrical engineering multi.

Mathematicians, physicists and radiologists at the Philips laboratories have spent years putting Professor Nadimi's ideas into practice.

Unlike conventional computer tomography, tomosynthesis uses a number of X-ray cameras arrayed to cover the subject from all angles.

"We make each exposure using two dozen X-rays arrayed in different positions," he says, "and then go on to decode the overall picture."

In practice we can penetrate the entire object, including all strata required for diagnosis, and evaluate them accurately and in our own good time afterwards, without the patient needing to be present."

Tomosynthesis is a further development of computer tomography, which is used in most large hospitals nowadays.

In computer tomography the patient is passed through the circular aperture

of a special X-ray device and X-rayed in cross-sections a centimetre apart.

It is the most important new department in radiology since the war and earned Britain's Godfrey Hounsfield the 1979 Nobel Prize for medicine.

Professor Nadimi and his Würzburg associates joined forces with the Philips research scientists in Hamburg to improve on computer tomography.

Tomosynthesis, he says, enables the specialist to make a diagnosis 100 times better and more detailed than would be possible using conventional X-ray exposures.

"A tumour, a blood clot or a brain abscess differ in absorption from heal-

thy brain tissue," he explains. "The use of contrast substances, which is entirely harmless, is no longer necessary."

The radiation bombardment by dozens X-rays simultaneously is low-grade radiation is used, as by physicists, with the result that overall radiation is lower than in all other techniques.

Professor Nadimi, who edited radiological atlases, readily admitted the new technique still needs to be proved. The process can be both rated and simplified by computerisation.

Tomosynthesis has successfully undergone two years of clinical trials in brain damage diagnosis but also heart, lung and orthopaedic surgery claims. Research into further uses is ready in progress.

Helmut Glinke
(Die Zeit, 13 August 1982)

'Uppers and downers not for kids,' parents warned

Too many parents give drugs to children who cannot sleep or have trouble at school, reports Bonn's Health Ministry.

"It's a dangerous thing to do," says Claus Grobecker, parliamentary state secretary to the Health Ministry. "Some drugs can be habit-forming if taken for any length of time."

He warned parents in connection with the findings of a survey by the Federal Health Education Centre, Cologne.

Thirty-six per cent of parents questioned said they saw nothing wrong in giving children and young people drugs to help them concentrate or to improve their performance.

One in five would use tranquillisers or sedatives if a child was restless. Parents even drug toddlers and infants.

Herr Grobecker says there is a dangerously widespread inclination to take drugs to deal with run-of-the-mill complaints such as headaches, insomnia and the like.

"It is alarming to see how thoughtlessly many adults take these drugs themselves," he said. "Giving them to children is even worse. Uppers and downers are not for kids."

Tranquillisers are particularly dan-

gerous, the Cologne agency feels. They are not only habit-forming but also a danger to a child's natural activities.

The Health Ministry advises parents to steer clear of drugs that claim to boost performance or heighten concentration. They are usually vitamin-rich and do no harm, but they don't get to the root of the problem either.

A child that is suffering from lack of concentration often does so because of domestic circumstances. Children cannot concentrate mainly because of homes where they are not given love and attention.

When poor concentration is generally due to vitamin shortage, the Ministry says, a healthy diet with plenty of rich in vitamin and protein is more than pills.

Eating habits in many families are also said to be alarming. Many children are fed nothing but junk food, such as potato chips, ice cream and soft drinks.

Families with children also tend to eat under greater pressure and with less peace, quiet and pleasure than the population as a whole.

This too will tend to have an adverse effect on children's ability.

Jürgen Süssenguth
(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 21 August 1982)

Health authorities take closer look at drugs on the market

They are ruled out because tests with laboratory animals or other trials have shown them to be liable to have side-effects.

Clinical tests then follow, with human patients taking the place of the proverbial guinea-pig. A new drug is usually tried out on 1,000 to 2,000 patients. At times it is given to up to 10,000.

More is not practically possible. There is not enough time, not enough money and there are not enough patients prepared to volunteer.

If trials show the drug to be beneficial and the benefits to be greater than the risks observed, the Health Office

has to give it the go-ahead even though it may be nothing new in comparison with drugs already on the market.

The third stage of safety checks involves patients who are not conveniently available in hospital because, for instance, their condition is not serious enough to warrant hospitalisation.

But doctors, drug manufacturers and pharmacists are required to submit details of cases in which they suspect a drug is proving harmful.

When there are frequent reports of trouble with a certain drug, action is called for.

Pharmaceutical and medical literature is also monitored, while hospitals

and general practitioners all over Germany have been briefed to keep an eye on specific drugs.

The procedure has its shortcomings but has proved satisfactory by and large. The problem is what to do about the tens of thousands of drugs on the market before the new regulations come into force.

The Health Office does not have manpower to check them all, so it decided to regard all medicines on the market in 1978 as having been approved until 1990.

Research scientists have since usually tried to categorise, classify and probe this stock in trade.

Computer stocktaking was indispensable because the 140,000 patent medicines include all manner of products, regionally marketed cures and brand names manufactured by local pharmacists.

A start was made with painkillers. Continued on page 15

MODERN LIVING

Bremen gets an ombudswoman to make sure women don't get sat on

women's rights department has started work in Bremen. It is independent and has a budget of its own: DM83,000.

Like other watchdog units round the country, this one has its independence and its money guaranteed by law.

Kerstin, head of the department, is unhappy with its cumbersome

Business advice in the twink of a star

advisors are often consulted before companies reach major decisions, says Metall, the monthly magazine of the 2.7m-member metalworkers' union IG Metall.

In some states, such as Bavaria, astrologers are even deductible as company expenses, iron, steel and engineering are told.

Reporter posing as a businessman to launch a company, called on astrologers all over the country and asked others to ask what services they provided in connection with setting up companies and selecting staff.

In Munich alone three astrologers claimed to be in this lucrative line of business.

He said he advised companies not to hire management staff but to employ ordinary workers who could, he said, be easily be a spanner in the works.

Metall astrologer Ingo Hahn-Roske says leading companies frequently consult astrologers. "They bring in the astrological data and I check what they can expect a man to be like for the company or not." He is frequently consulted in this way.

Senate Sydow, of Hamburg, is also consulted. She claims to have 200 regular customers who pay between DM100 and DM50,000 in fees.

She is the official of the Bavarian Finance Ministry says company horoscopes are deductible all over the country and subsidised by the taxpayer. The ministry was not prepared to give a judgment.

Bavaria's Finance Minister Heribert Posch said there has been a substantial increase in expenses claimed for astrological services, but he felt they were generally valid.

Such expenses are regularly subsidised by inland revenue officials all over Germany, the magazine claims.

dpa
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 11 August 1982)

Continued from page 14

dealing with all drugs containing pyrazolone. The Health Office restricted their use in some cases last March.

Some were suspected of damaging blood make-up and causing a state of shock, although the cases reported were most infrequent.

Manufacturers then voluntarily withdrew 3,000 drugs from the market. They agreed to do so before a Health Office announcement in December last year.

German name: *Bremische Zentralstelle für die Verwirklichung der Gleichberechtigung der Frau.*

It means Bremen Centre for the Implementation of Equal Rights for Women, but Frau Kerstin has appealed to Bremen people to think up a simpler name.

Before being approved in her new job by the city council and appointed by the Senate she served six years as a Social Democratic councillor.

She is a social worker by occupation and has contacts with people and departments that should now stand her in good stead.

As women's rights ombudswoman she aims to be impartial and to help anyone who feels she is being subjected to sexual discrimination.

Opponents of the whole idea say her department is absolutely superfluous. She is determined to show them it is not a waste of time and money.

She used to have an office in the Rathaus, or town hall, but found outside contacts were hard to establish. The town hall deterred people from calling.

So she and her staff of five, including a woman lawyer and social scientist, have moved to a floor of the building that used to house the US consulate-general. Now they have a regular stream of visitors.

Understandably, most are women. Their problems range from difficulties in finding work to uncertainty over pension rights.

"We spend much of our time working as a referral centre for complaints," says Frau Kerstin. "What we can't do on the spot we refer to other departments."

On Friday she is usually the only woman at the weekly meeting of Senate directors, who are equivalent in rank to state secretaries and lay the groundwork for the Monday session of the Senate, or state government.

Her legal brief is to check and help to ensure that equal rights for women at work, in education and in society are upheld in Bremen.

She is determined to breathe life into what is a somewhat dry definition of her terms of reference as ombudswoman.

She has, for instance, written to all political parties in the city to ensure that women are given a suitable number of places high up on their tickets for next year's city council elections.

She has also written to the public transport department because bus and tram drivers were given cut-price season tickets for their wives.

What, she asked, about the husbands of women employees? She was told

Other manufacturers have appealed. The Berlin agency has a wide range of powers. It can call on manufacturers to make voluntary arrangements. It can require them to rewrite the instructions to include a warning to the user.

It can also withdraw recognition of the drug or, if there is any immediate danger, impose an immediate and total ban on its sale.

It seldom has to go to such lengths. It is usually enough to publish warnings.

Gerd Rauhaus
(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 18 August 1982)

Farmer Gump stumps up

In Bavaria the Roman Catholic church is entitled to claim both cash and kind from its flock, an Augsburg administrative court has ruled.

A 60-year-old farmer, Johann Gump, has been sentenced to pay the church 12 loaves of bread a year in accordance with tithes rights dating back centuries.

Gump, who farms 100 acres in Herbershofen, near Augsburg, was taken to court by the church because he refused to maintain the tradition.

In centuries gone by wealthy farmers in many parts of the country were bound to contribute toward their parish priest's upkeep in grain, butter and firewood.

The episcopal authorities argue that this age-old right still existed and was embodied in a Bavarian law passed in 1954.

Two farmers in the village have continued to pay DM18 a year in bread money, but Farmer Gump stopped doing so in 1973. His lawyer told the court the custom no longer made sense nowadays.

"I already pay DM1,500 a year in church tax," he added. If he lost his case, he said, he would dump 100 loaves at the back door of the priest's home.

But the need no longer arises. The court found that a cash settlement was more suitable. He was ordered to pay DM48 a year in future and DM225 for the loaves he failed to deliver.

dpa
(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 18 August 1982)

Taxman's battle against the girls who walk on easy street

Taxmen can say to the nearest penny how much bakers or plumbers, doctors or estate agents earn, but statistics about what prostitutes and call girls earn are not available.

There is the only trade in which taxmen have drawn a virtual blank. They earn up to DM100,000 a year and, with few exceptions, pay no tax.

So despite instructions to leave no stone unturned in their quest for taxable income, German inland revenue officials are musing out on revenue totalling an estimated DM2bn a year or more.

The *Bundesfinanzhof*, or supreme tax court, in Munich ruled in 1969 and 1970 that immoral earnings were taxable, so for over a decade the legal position has been clear.

A prostitute's earnings count as miscellaneous income in accordance with Paragraph 22 of the Income Tax Act, a provision that entitles the inland revenue to tax bribes and the proceeds of speculation.

The oldest profession is the world is thus liable to income tax and church tax but not, apparently, to value-added tax, which cannot be deducted from business expenses.

But the regulations have not been much use in practice. The taxmen are no nearer consistently taxing immoral earnings than they were a decade ago.

As the head of the inland revenue fraud squad in a West German city frankly admits: "Initially the inland revenue were keen to tap this source of tax, but we have now realised that suc-

cess is sporadic and more trouble than it is worth."

So taxmen have tended to abandon the attempt to run this lucrative source of revenue to earth. "I have never yet known a prostitute to file tax returns voluntarily," he says.

Now that immoral earnings are no longer illegal, apart from procuring and streetwalking in restricted areas, the police are not much help either.

"We often make a rough estimate and assess income, but by the time we are in a position to send in the bill the woman has usually moved on."

Tax returns only work at all satisfactorily in brothels, where arrangements are either agreed or estimates are made and charged.

One inland revenue office keeps a count of the number of bed sheets used and taxes the woman in accordance with this rule of thumb.

But part-timers are an even tougher problem. The police have lately noticed an increasing trend to part-time prostitution, possibly due to the economic situation.

They are students who have been unable to find a vacation job to eke out their scholarship and housewives who are unable to make ends meet on their housekeeping allowances.

Part-timers are making life hard for the professional woman. There are an estimated 50,000 or so in the Federal Republic of Germany earning about DM600m a year.

Horst Zimmermann
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 9 August 1982)